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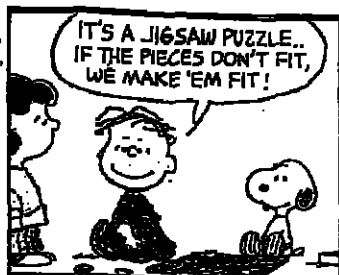
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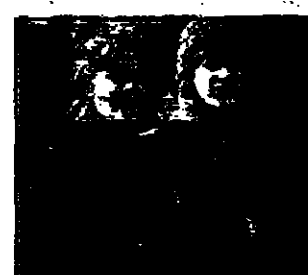
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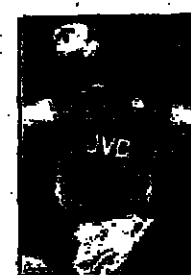
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Senate reaches compromise on impeachment trial

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — US Senate Republican leader Trent Lott vowed yesterday that President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial will be conducted with "decency and decorum," as other senators voiced hope of avoiding partisan rancor over calling witnesses.

Senate Republicans and Democrats reached a truce on Friday that will allow the impeachment trial to proceed without first settling a bitter dispute over whether witnesses, including ex-White House intern Monica Lewinsky, should be summoned to testify.

Clinton was impeached by the

House of Representatives for perjury and obstruction of justice in his attempts to cover up his sexual relations with Lewinsky. The 100-member Senate sits as the jury in the trial and decides whether Clinton should be removed from office.

"Throughout this process we will insist on the high standards of decency and decorum — not only in the Senate chamber itself but in and around the Capitol," Lott declared in the weekly Republican radio address to the nation.

"Believe me, to sit in judgment here is to fill a responsibility far heavier than any other political concern," he said.

Mindful of the political atmosphere that has dominated the process thus far, the Senate hopes to avoid the bickering that dominated the process in the House before its vote last month.

Under the plan, the formal trial does not resume until Thursday. The White House has until tomorrow to respond to the formal summons Clinton was served by the Senate and to file motions.

The House, which serves as the prosecution, has time to react to the White House and file its own motions.

The compromise, reached after all 100 members of the Senate met behind closed doors to search for

options, is likely to delay for about two weeks a showdown over whether witnesses should be called to testify — since efforts to dismiss the case are considered unlikely to succeed at this point.

Clinton receives formal summons, Page 4

The House prosecution team has insisted it be allowed to bring witnesses, including Lewinsky, presidential secretary Betty Currie and Vernon Jordan, Clinton's friend who tried to find a job for

Lewinsky in the private sector.

The White House has been compiling its own list of potential witnesses — including Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel whose report to the House served as its basis for impeachment.

"There's always a possibility of a disagreement at the end of the day, but it is an orderly way to begin," Sen. Joseph Biden, a Democrat from Delaware, said of a possible dispute over witnesses.

"We felt very strongly... that we could not end up looking like the House or the White House, that it was very important that we start off in a bipartisan way," he said on the NBC Today program.



US President Bill Clinton

Sen. Slade Gordon, a Washington Republican and a leader in efforts to find a compromise, said on the same program that "the question of witnesses is one that the House of Representatives, the prosecutors, felt very strongly about. They wanted at least the opportunity to tell the Senate that they needed witnesses, who they were and what they were going to say."

"They'll have that opportunity, but I think... by the time we get to that portion of the trial I suspect the number of witnesses they'll ask for will be diminished," Gordon said, adding he hoped it would "avoid a partisan debate."

Tutu: No forgiveness without truth

By DANNA HARMAN

Asked last night to suggest how Israelis and Palestinians might succeed in achieving understanding and forgiveness, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, replied that "nursing a grudge is bad for your health."

Speaking at Jerusalem's Yakar Center for Social Concern, Tutu said that both sides need to deal with the question of forgiveness. But, he added, "in South Africa we always got very annoyed by people who came from outside and told us how to take care of our affairs."

Flanked by Rabbi Mickey Rosen and former South African journalist Benjamin Pogrand, Tutu told the rapt audience: "At home, we were fortunate to be able to walk arm in arm with both Jewish rabbis and Moslem imams against a system buttressed largely by fellow Christians... We walked forward to our truth."

The spirited clergyman talked about the importance of bringing out "the truth of the apartheid years, however painful it might be" in order to move forward with the process of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Tutu further thanked the international community for their "support, love, and prayers," that helped and continue to help South Africa on its road to healing itself.

"You can never have reconciliation without truth, and you have to ask telling the truth before you can ask for forgiveness and get on with the business of repentance," said Tutu, who emphasized the therapeutic importance of letting people tell their stories.

The Yakar Center, run by Pogrand, a former deputy editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* in Johannesburg, who pioneered the reporting of black South African politics, holds regular discussions and debates with the aim of bridging gaps between secular and religious, and Israeli and Palestinian.

Tutu, for whom this is his second visit to Israel, is here to attend the Peres Center for Peace's board of governors meeting.



Members of the Concerned Christians cult are driven Friday night to Ben-Gurion Airport, where they were deported to the US. (Brian Handler)

Doomsday cult members deported

By AMY KLEIN

Less than a week after they were detained on suspicion of planning an attack in Jerusalem's Old City, 14 members of the Concerned Christians doomsday cult were deported back to their Denver base via Toronto over the weekend.

Despite their wishes to fly to Greece, where many other Concerned Christians reside, they were sent back to their country of origin, in accordance with international conventions.

The 14 had arrived in Israel in the fall. The group was brought to Ben-Gurion Airport at 9:15 p.m. Friday night and boarded an Air Canada flight to Toronto at 1:30 a.m. yesterday morning. According to The Associated Press, the group landed in Toronto yesterday and was expected to catch a connecting flight to Denver.

The Concerned Christians are being accompanied to Denver by three Israel Police officers. Before being taken to the airport, group members were allowed to collect personal effects

from their rented homes in Mevasseret Zion and Motza, Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

Last Sunday evening, a special task force comprising police, General Security Service, and Mossad officers detained the 14 Concerned Christians on suspicion they were planning an attack in Jerusalem's Old City, possibly the Temple Mount.

Security forces believed the group planned the attack to help bring about the second coming of Jesus.

Seventy-eight Concerned Christians disappeared from Denver and other cities last October. Their leader, 44-year-old Monte Kim Miller, is in London. British intelligence officials have confirmed.

Miller reportedly said he plans to die in Jerusalem at the end of December 1999 and will be resurrected here three days later.

The morning after the raid, the Interior Ministry issued deportation orders for 11 Concerned Christians — three women, two men,

and six children. They also arrested three men — John Bayles, Eric Malestic, and Terry Smith — to further investigate the planned violent activities.

The three had denied to Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court that they planned to cause violence to themselves or others. On Wednesday, police decided against pressing charges.

"It is not in the public interest to spend the time and money to try these men in Israel," Ben-Ruby had said.

The Interior Ministry then issued deportation orders for Bayles, Smith, and Malestic, who were brought to Jerusalem's Russian Compound lockup, where the other men were being held.

The group did not try to fight the deportation. The three men told their lawyer, Eran Avital, they were "disappointed" they had to leave, but added, "we don't want to be somewhere we're not wanted."

No member of the group will be allowed back into the country, said Ben-Ruby.

Livnat to stick with Likud

Mordechai undecided

By SARAH HONG

Communications Minister Limor Livnat has apparently decided and will announce this week that she is remaining in the party, Likud sources said yesterday.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai declared in two weekend political meetings, however, that he still has not decided about his political future.

Although Livnat was invited to join MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin's new Herut Party, she had declined to do so. She has also considered joining Meridor in a centrist venture, but will not join Shahak, with whom Meridor is likely to team up.

The falling fortunes of the centrist configurations in the polls also does not make the option as alluring as it might have appeared in recent weeks.

The talk in the Likud now is that she will make her announcement after tomorrow, the deadline for submitting candidates to the Likud's leadership race. So far only Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and MK Uzi Landau are in the running.

Mordechai, on the other hand, puzzled the entire political arena with two curious appearances on Friday that no one in his party could quite account for. He first went to Beit Shemesh to meet with an audience described as his supporters from within the Likud, then attend-

ed another meeting of Likud mayors, many of whom also professed to be his supporters.

Mordechai is a relative newcomer to the party, joining it on the eve of the 1996 elections. He is not ideologically tied to the party's credo and does not have an identifiable camp or faction within the party.

Mordechai told both groupings that he had not yet made up his mind. "The issues are weighty and I have not fully deliberated them all to my satisfaction," Mordechai told his Likud audience in Beit Shemesh. "When I reach a conclusion I promise to report to you what I have decided and I also promise to account in detail for my decision and for what

made me reach it."

Most of the mayors he later met urged him to stay in the Likud, but some — most notably Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar — said they would follow him wherever he would go.

This aroused interest in the Likud, because Bar is known to be very close to Mordechai, and the speculation was that he may know that Mordechai has decided not to stay in the party.

Barak rejects open primaries, Page 2

See LIVNAT, Page 2

Police probe threats against Shahak

By HEIDI J. GLEIT and Tim

Tel Aviv police are continuing their investigation into threats against Amnon Lipkin-Shahak on Thursday, when he visited the market in the city's Hatikva neighborhood as part of his campaign for the premiership.

Police are questioning eyewitnesses to the visit, throughout which a hostile crowd booed and jeered Shahak. Someone in the crowd allegedly threatened Shahak's life with the words, "The next bullet is for Amnon Shahak's head."

A police spokeswoman said last night that police had questioned about 15 eyewitnesses, but only one — a member of Shahak's entourage — said he had heard the threat.

Following Shahak's visit, about which police had not been informed beforehand, Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk announced that police will meet

with all the candidates for prime minister and work with them and their staffs to ensure the safety of the candidates.

Meanwhile, a man who was arrested in Petah Tikva over the weekend for making threats against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been released. Police decided against requesting "his remand" and instead recommended he undergo psychiatric evaluation.

The Likud denounced the manifestations of violence against both Shahak and Netanyahu.

Lia Collins adds:

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday called for the level of political violence — both verbal and physical — to be toned down. Noting with concern the level of abuse at the start of the election campaign, Tichon said: "If we carry on like this, who knows what might happen in the future? All attempts at unrestrained attacks must be condemned."

Edward Said tells 'NY Times': Palestinian statehood unworkable

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Palestinian self-determination in a separate state is "unworkable," says Edward Said, a leading Palestinian intellectual and professor at Columbia University, calling for a democratic "one-state" solution in which

Israelis and Palestinians would each have equal rights as citizens. "This does not mean a diminishing of Jewish life as Jewish life or a surrendering of Palestinian Arab aspirations and political existence," Said wrote in an essay in today's *New York Times Magazine*.

"But it does mean being willing to soften, lessen, and finally give up special status for one people at the expense of the other."

"Palestine is and always has been a land of many histories; it is a radical simplification to think of it as principally or exclusively

Jewish or Arab," wrote Said, a professor of literature who is a major critic of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Said has opposed the Oslo Accords, maintaining that the Palestinians conceded too much and gained too little. He also accuses the PA of being corrupt.

Said has assailed Arafat, contending that "backed by Washington, [Arafat] is daily more repressive."

See STATEHOOD, Page 2

Shabbat manhunt for observant officer

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A young IDF officer who feared he would violate Shabbat stayed with friends in Jerusalem over the weekend, but failed to notify his original hosts, sparking a large manhunt by the army and Israel Police.

The army said the officer was hitchhiking in Judea and Samaria, reportedly toward the settlement of Eli, and decided he would not make it before sunset. He stayed instead with friends in Jerusalem's Pisgat

Ze'ev neighborhood, turning off his cellular phone. It was only after Shabbat was over that he was located and the search was called off.

The IDF issued a statement last night stressing to its troops the importance of sticking to regulations regarding hitchhiking.

A senior IDF commander warned last week that Islamic terrorists in the West Bank are very keen on trying to kidnap an Israeli soldier, a factor which certainly heightened the apprehension by the IDF over the missing officer.



July 2001:50

NEWS

in brief

Local authority workers to strike today

Some 80,000 of the 100,000 local authority workers were to start a one-day warning strike at midnight last night to protest the non-payment of salaries in dozens of localities. Local authority offices will not receive the public, nor will planning and welfare offices be open. Garbage won't be collected or parking tickets written. Kindergarten and nursery school assistants will not be working. Leaders of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI) said they are demanding a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, at which they expect him to explain how the government plans to relieve the local authorities' budget crises. If the meeting does not take place and solutions are not found, all local authority employees will be placed on unpaid leave from February 1 until the crisis is resolved. ULAI said. *Itim*

4 killed in weekend road accidents

A bus overturned onto a car at the Movil junction in lower Galilee last night, killing a 4-year-old girl riding in the automobile in addition to the car's driver and a woman passenger. Twenty bus passengers, most of them Tiberias city employees, sustained light to moderate injuries. The bus apparently skidded on a wet road at a turn near the junction. The injured were taken to Poriya Hospital and to Afula Hospital. Ela Picado, 24, of Ashdod, died last night of injuries she sustained on Friday in a road accident at the Re'em junction. *Itim*

Sharon-Moussa meeting in doubt

Sources in Egypt said that Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who is coming to Israel tomorrow to participate in the Peres Peace Center board of governors meeting, does not want to meet with Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, because of the freeze in the implementation of the Wye accord. Sharon's office, however, issued a statement saying that, first, there is no freeze in the process, and second, Moussa had asked for the meeting. Now, sources in Egypt deny Moussa had asked for the meeting and said that, as Moussa will be in any meeting had been requested and said that, as Moussa will be in the country only for a few hours, he would meet with Sharon only if there is time. The Foreign Ministry said yesterday the two will meet as planned tomorrow in Tel Aviv. *Danna Harman*

Police trying to identify body of haredi man

Police in Safed are trying to locate relatives of a haredi man, whose body was found Friday under a cliff in Nahal Amud. The body was brought to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir. A description of the young man has been distributed to police stations throughout the country, since there has been no report of a haredi man missing. "It's possible that this is a young man from the center of the country who went on a hike in the Safed area," Safed police commander Ch. Supt. Tapash Sami said. "I would advise any parent whose son is learning in a yeshiva in the Safed area to try to contact him, and for all yeshiva heads to check if a student matching this man's description is missing." *Itim*

Moroccan envoy cancels memorial appearance

Moroccan information and film chief Suhail Ben Barka has cancelled his participation in Thursday's memorial ceremony for those lost on the illegal immigrant ship *Pisces*. Ben Barka said his government had withheld permission for him to attend the annual ceremony at Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl. He was also due to attend the premiere of a TV series on the ship. Forty-four persons died when the *Pisces*, renamed the *Egoz*, sank off the coast of Morocco in January 1961 carrying Jews seeking to escape to Israel. Twenty-two of the bodies have since been recovered and reburied on Mt. Herzl. *Itim*

2 human skulls found in TA apartment

Police found two human skulls in a closet in a Tel Aviv apartment on Friday morning. The skulls, which were wrapped in a newspaper from 1973, were sent to a forensic institute for analysis. *Heidi J. Gleit*

Barak rejects 'open' primaries

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak has decided on a middle road with regard to party primaries: He will not oppose primaries for Knesset candidates but will reject the idea of "open primaries," in which not only party members are eligible to vote. The mid-February primaries will be thus the third that Labor will hold under the "closed primary" system. It is the only party that is conducting a primary to choose its Knesset list. Barak yesterday announced his decision when he met with MKs Yossi Beilin, Haim Ramon and Shlomo Ben-Ami, in Beilin's Tel Aviv home. The meeting sent shock waves through Labor, though officially its agenda was limited to the primaries. The fact that Barak took up the subject with the three was seen by Labor

insiders as an indication that they constitute the team to be reckoned with in the party. Should Barak win the elections, there would likely be a limited number of portfolios even for the party in power because of the downsizing of the large parties under the new electoral system. This has made the race for primacy in both large parties fierce.

Thus, it was noted last night that such Labor luminaries as Uzi Baram, Avraham Shohat, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Ephraim Sneh were not present at the meeting in Beilin's home.

Two of those not invited, however, need not worry: Dalia Itzik, who is in line for a portfolio for gender considerations and Shimon Peres, who will get one to keep internal party peace.

At the meeting, Ramon kept pressing for open primaries. These would allow all

Israelis of voting age to participate in choosing the Labor list. Ramon is sure this would help him against the Labor Party machine which, he continues to maintain, is inimical to his interests.

Ramon has been demanding open primaries since 1992, but the demand was rejected both by the late Yitzhak Rabin and Peres.

Barak yesterday joined them. He made no bones about his reservations regarding the cumbersome primaries in which hundreds of candidates will vie for a decreasing number of safe slots on the party list.

Even the winners would be further pushed down on the list because of slots reserved for various sectors and for groups with which deals will be made, like David Levy and his Gesher MKs.

Barak noted that all other parties had dropped primary elections for the Knesset

list while continuing to conduct one for party leader.

However, to prevent an internecine party battle over the issue, he will not fight the primaries, he said.

The primaries will most likely be held on February 15. The final confirmation of the decision, which was already approved by the Labor political bureau and central committee, will come on Thursday at a special sitting of the party convention.

Barak also announced that former Mossad chief Danny Yatom is joining his campaign headquarters.

Yatom, who had been appointed by Rabin, resigned last year, after the release of the Chichoanover Committee report on the botched assassination attempt against Khaled Mashaal in Jordan and the arrest of a Mossad operative in Switzerland.

LIVNAT

Continued from Page 1

Otherwise, say party pundits, it would be more reasonable for Bar to ask Mordechai to stay in the Likud.

However, there is no clear-cut assessment in the party as to where Mordechai may be heading. One body of opinion argues that the very fact he decided to appear in front of two Likud audiences indicates that the Likud continues to be a factor in his calculations and he thus is staying in the party.

Others, however, say the fact that he continues to agonize in public about his indecision is hardly a vote of confidence in the Likud and leader Binyamin Netanyahu.

From the emerging centrist party came news yesterday that Mordechai had put out feelers about joining the party, but his major objection was the expectation that he would be relegated to a No. 2 or a No. 3 slot after Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and/or Dan Meridor.

Mordechai, according to these reports, argued that he should be placed above Shahak, especially as he outranked him in his role as defense minister.

Shahak, it was said, agreed that Mordechai would be included in the consideration for the No. 1 slot, which he wants determined soon by a public opinion poll.

Meridor vehemently refused to accept any such arrangement. According to another report, Mordechai and Netanyahu held a meeting a few days ago during which Mordechai walked out as soon as the defense issues were finished and the subject switched to politics. Mordechai, however, is in no rush and will probably say nothing until the end of the month, a source said.



Greeting his guests

Labor MK Shimon Peres greets former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger in Tel Aviv yesterday. Kissinger is one of several international figures here for the board of governors meeting of the Peres Center for Peace. (Gideon Markovitz)

Polish president arrives for 3-day visit

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit. This is only the second visit by a Polish head of state, after Lech Walesa came to Israel in 1991. Kwasniewski is to meet with

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and other top officials. Issues to be discussed include unresolved property questions, a weapons deal which did not materialize and the dispute regarding the crosses at Auschwitz. *Danna Harman*

Jacob Alkow, US Zionist leader, dies at 96

With the death last week of Jacob Alkow at the age of 96, the American Zionist movement has lost one of its most colorful figures. An expert in Chinese art, he was located in Los Angeles during World War II and participated

actively in the struggle for the creation of Israel. Fighting at the side of Dr. Abba-Hillel Silver, he saw his dream become reality. After the creation of Israel, he participated in the state's economic development. After the resignation

of Henry Montor as the creative force of the Development Corporation for Israel and his failure in establishing a viable stock exchange, Alkow took it over.

Settling in Israel, he became the director of ZOA House. It was his initiative and his original programming that laid the foundation for the thriving cultural center it has become.

He understood that the link between Israel and American Jewry is essential to ensure political and economic support for the state from the government and people of the US.

He belonged to the generation that had the vision and the courage to fight for Jewish independence after the horrors of the Holocaust. *Jacques Torczyner*

To Mem, Leslie Elaine, Rochel-Lea and Claude

Lili and Henry
mourn with you
the loss of our very special
and unique friend

ZALMAN זלמן

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

On the 30th day of the passing of our beloved head of the family

ZVI CASPI

On Tuesday, January 12, 1999, we will meet at 3 p.m. at the Har Tamir section of the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery for the unveiling. An evening of learning will take place, following Mincha at 4:15 p.m. at the Sha'arei Rahamim Ve'simcha Synagogue on Rehov Hechayal, Tzameret Habira, French Hill, Jerusalem.

Yehudit Caspi
Families: Glicksberg, Druck, Aumann, Caspi, Ben-David

BENZION (Bennie) OLSFANGER

Died peacefully and with dignity after a short illness on Friday, 8 January, 1999 (20 Tevet 5759).

He will forever be remembered with pride and everlasting love by his children David & Shirley Olsfanger, Norman Olsfanger, Sharon & David Klaff, grandchildren, and great granddaughter.

Funeral at 12 noon on Sunday, 10 January, 1999 at Kfar Nahman, Ra'anana.

Shiva: Olsfanger residence, 2 Hamachtesh, Kochav Yair. Prayers at 6 p.m.

STATEHOOD

Continued from Page 1

Said called for a peace that was a result of "reconciliation," in which citizenship with equal rights and responsibilities, rather than racial or ethnic identity, was the "main vehicle for coexistence."

Said suggested that this would appeal to Israelis who are dissatisfied with land confiscations, the demolition of houses and "the religious parties' increasing hold on Israeli life and Oslo's unfairness and frustrations." There is, he said, "a healthy willingness to look elsewhere for peace than in land-grabbing and suicide bombs."

Palestinians of his children's generation, Said wrote, "are skeptical of their elders and look more unconventionally toward the future, beyond conflict and unending loss."

In these times
you cannot
AFFORD
to be
without
THE JERUSALEM POST

the israel museum, jerusalem

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deeply mourn the passing of

ZALMAN C. BERNSTEIN

and extend heartfelt condolences to the family

The Municipality of Jerusalem
mourns the passing of

Mr. ZALMAN CHAIM BERNSTEIN

His love for Am Israel, advocacy of Jewish Education and Jewish Coexistence, his passion for unity and tireless commitments to Israel and Jerusalem, the Eternal Capital of the Jewish People will be eternally honored and revered.

Our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Bernstein Family.

Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem City Council,
The City of Jerusalem.

The women of Matan
and the children of Yad Rachel

mourn the untimely passing of

ZALMAN BERNSTEIN זלמן

Builder of Israel and a good friend.

Our deepest condolences to his mother Martha, wife Mem, children Claude, Leslie and Rochel-Leah, and his grandchildren.

Lili Weil and Malka Bina.

"GREEN LIGHT" FOR TERROR

The recent shootings in Jewish Hebron are a mere forerunner of what will happen tomorrow in Tel Aviv and elsewhere!

We will not be intimidated! Let us join together now and put an end to these ugly and unacceptable Arab tactics. Of course, we will demand better protection from our police and army. But, we wish also to declare that Israel can no longer accept Arab double talk and inaction. Arab terrorists are permitted by Arabit to operate freely from within Palestine Authority areas; neither Arabit, nor anyone else in the PA, has made any serious effort to root them out. Moreover, instead of ostracizing them, and condemning their murderous acts, they praise and esteem these terrorists as heroes, and laud them as examples of Arab self sacrifice. Men, women and children will march together along the route of the latest attempt to murder Jewish women who worked in a Hebron nursery. We will walk from Kiryat Arba to the nearby Beit Hadaassah in Hebron (with our Jewish army's protection). The walk takes about 15 minutes.

The date of the March is

Monday, January 11, 1999, starting at 10 a.m.

from the gate near the gas station in Kiryat Arba.

We have chartered a bus (round trip NIS 20)

leaving from the Larousse Hotel in Jerusalem at 8:45 a.m.

We will return at approximately 1 p.m.

Please make your reservations early for a seat on the bus.

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Hizbullah shells IDF outposts

By ARISH O'SULLIVAN

Retaliating for the demolition of 14 houses in south Lebanon, Hizbullah guerrillas unleashed massive mortar and rocket barrages throughout Friday at IDF outposts, killing a Lebanese shepherd and wounding two other civilians.

There were no Israeli casualties, the IDF said.

A number of the mortar shells also fell in the western Galilee, near Shomera and Mt. Amiram, and in two villages in the security zone around noon on Friday. There was no damage from the hits in Israel, but the army said that a Katyusha rocket and the mortar shells that hit the south Lebanon villages of Ramiya and Houla damaged a number of structures.

Israel filed three complaints over the weekend aggression with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group, which is to convene tomorrow. Brig-Gen. Dan Ardit, who is the Israeli representative to the monitoring group, will bring a total of five complaints to the committee. Lebanon has filed three of its own.

In a related development, Lebanese security officials said that SLA troops expelled 25 people Thursday from a south Lebanon village where a militia officer was shot dead two weeks ago.

The inhabitants of Shiba, about 15 kilometers east of Marjayoun, were sent out of the security zone. The 25 include 16 children, 6 women and three men, a Hizbullah statement said.

The IDF had no comment on the expulsions.

Reports from Lebanon said that three Katyusha rockets were fired, along with the large 120-mm mortars, in a pre-dawn attack on Friday. One of the rockets hit a house in the village of Markaba, killing 60-year-old Mohammed Atewi and wounding two others, AP quoted Lebanese security sources as saying.

But the IDF said the man died after he was seriously wounded by a mortar round while grazing his flock in a field. The man was evacuated to a hospital in southern Lebanon, but he died of his wounds, the army said.

The army said Hizbullah guerrillas fired mortar, recoilless rifles and heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at SLA and IDF positions throughout the day.

Friday. No SLA or IDF troops were hurt, the IDF said.

Israeli military sources said that the Hizbullah reaction to the house demolitions would be limited to Friday's shelling and that they do not expect the tensions in south Lebanon to intensify.

In Beirut, Hizbullah announced that its Lebanese Resistance Brigades squads attacked Israeli outposts in Barasheet, Al-Kobaa, Haddatha, and Sojed, Lebanon's official National News Agency reported. Hizbullah claimed it caused damage to the outposts, but did not say there were any casualties.

Hizbullah official Sheikh Nabil Kawook accused Israel of punishing the local population for Hizbullah attacks. He said the bombings were in retaliation for "repeated Israeli attacks against innocent civilians."

"The Israeli criminal escalation is an expression of maximum grudge and hatred," he said in a statement. "It is clear that these aggressions will not save the enemy from the quagmire, but they show that this enemy is ready to risk its civilians' security for electoral ends," Kawook said.

He added that Hizbullah was obligated to protect its people and accused the Israeli leadership of attempting to "harvest electoral gains" by destroying houses and deporting people.

He warned that Hizbullah would not refrain from striking at Israeli civilians if further Israeli-sponsored actions were taken against Lebanese civilians.

On Thursday, SLA militiamen, reportedly supervised by Israeli soldiers, bulldozed 14 houses in the village of Arnoun near the IDF position near the Beaufort Castle. The army said the houses were uninhabited and had been used by Hizbullah to lay bombs and stage attacks against IDF and SLA troops.

A Hizbullah statement said that SLA forces were blockading the village of Shiba, preventing 25 residents who were expelled on Thursday from returning.

Reports from Lebanon said that two relatives of those expelled are suspected of killing the commander of an SLA intelligence unit last month. Those men have been captured and imprisoned by the SLA.

US officials oppose Pollard release

Clinton to receive clemency recommendations tomorrow

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - American intelligence, defense and law enforcement officials, due to issue their recommendations to US President Bill Clinton tomorrow, remain adamantly opposed to releasing Jonathan Pollard, news agencies reported at week's end.

Clinton sought the recommendations after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked the White House, during the Wye River talks, for clemency for Pollard, who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel.

At that time, CIA Director George Tenet immediately threatened to resign if Clinton frees Pollard.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman and Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz are preparing a letter to the White House asking for a meeting to state the case for releasing Pollard on humanitarian grounds, Reuters reported.

WJC director Elan Steinberg told Reuters that "consensus has emerged in the organized Jewish community of absolute condemnation of Pollard's crimes while asking

for his release on strictly humanitarian grounds following more than a dozen years of imprisonment.

Grass-roots advocates, some Jewish groups and numerous religious leaders, citing different reasons, have campaigned for Pollard's release.

However, there is no obvious consensus that he should be released, and the case still makes many American Jews squeamish.

Some of Pollard's fervent supporters also have chafed at the longtime public silence on Pollard by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

A handful of Israeli officials recently have visited Pollard in the maximum-security prison in Butner, North Carolina.

Clinton, who last reviewed the case in 1996, has not indicated when his decision will be made.

The top Republican and Democratic members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Richard Shelby of Alabama and Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, also oppose clemency, and said they would ask other senators to sign a letter to Clinton demanding that Pollard, a former US Navy analyst, remain in prison for life.

Ross criticizes Israel's position on Wye

By DANNA HARMAN

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross met for over three hours Friday in New York to discuss the delays in the Wye accord implementation, the possibility of moving forward on the Syrian track, and bilateral relations.

In the course of the meeting, Ross expressed dissatisfaction with the ongoing Israeli portrayal of the Palestinian Authority as the main impediment to the continuation of the Wye accord implementation, sources said.

As an example of this attitude towards the Palestinians, Ross reportedly brought up the article written by Ambassador to the US Zalmay Shoval last week, which was published in *The Washington Post* and elicited a wave of criticism from the US administration. Shoval was present at yesterday's meeting.

Sharon, speaking to the press after the meeting with Ross, repeated the government's stand regarding the peace process: that a continuation of the Wye accord implementation is dependent on Palestinian fulfillment of the commitments undertaken.

"We have nothing to prove and no need to justify our position," Sharon said, adding that "Israel is the only country in the world to agree to the giving up of land - the rock of our existence - for peace."

Sharon, who is to return home today, may hold another meeting with Ross this week, as the latter will be in Israel to take part in the Peres Center's board of governors meetings.



Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon (right) meets in New York on Friday with US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross.

IDF reopens Gush Katif road

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF shut the Gush Katif coastal road on Friday after 100 settlers blocked a section near Netzarim to protest the IDF's decision to allow Palestinian traffic on the road. Last night the IDF reopened the road to both Israeli and Palestinian vehicular traffic, but kept it closed to Palestinian pedestrians.

Settlers say the decision to open the road last Wednesday not only

raises security concerns, but fears that the road - which passes meters from the settlement's main hotel - may have an adverse effect on tourism.

The IDF Spokesman said Wednesday's decision to reopen the road to Palestinian traffic was taken after Palestinians agreed to undergo checks at an IDF roadblock.

On Friday afternoon OC Gaza Strip Brig-Gen. Yoav Galant met with Jewish residents and asked them to obey the law and ensure

that order prevailed. He explained that the reason the IDF had declared the area a closed military zone was to prevent clashes between Jewish protesters and Palestinians seeking to travel along the road.

In an unrelated incident, a border policeman and an officer were lightly wounded by stones thrown at them during clashes in Abu Dis, outside Jerusalem, on Friday, the IDF Spokesman said. Both were treated at the scene.

PA appeals to Israelis to curb settlements

By BEN LYNFIELD

Palestinian cabinet ministers, their eyes on the upcoming Israeli elections, issued a direct call to the Israeli public on Friday to halt settlement activity or face the possible destruction of the peace process.

"The Palestinian leadership wants to clarify to Israeli public opinion that what the extremist settlement groups are doing to distort the peace process will cause the severest danger to the future of peace and coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples,"

the cabinet said, in a statement issued after its weekly meeting.

The statement is in line with the strategy of the PA to stress settlements as the top issue in the conflict with Israel during the months ahead, which are seen as particularly difficult ones because of the freeze in the Wye agreement and Israel's focus on the campaign for May 17 elections.

"Real peace, full and permanent, requires the halting of settlement activities, the ending of Israeli occupation and the recognition of our Palestinian national rights, foremost the right to self-determi-

nation and establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," it added.

The statement warned that "extreme settler groups," if not curtailed, would cause "a blowing up of the negotiations on final status and a return to confrontation."

In a separate call to the international community, the ministers urged "real, practical and workable" pressure on Israel to halt what it termed "cancerous settlement activities" and to implement the Wye agreement, which calls for further Israeli redeployments in the West Bank.

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Clinton receives formal summons

Impeachment trial arguments begin this week

By DAVID ESPO

WASHINGTON (AP) — Challenged to avoid "the black pit" of partisanship, the US Senate on Friday unanimously sealed an elusive accord on rules for President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial.

Opening arguments were set for this week, with the possibility of witnesses still open.

After an unprecedented closed-door meeting in the ornate Old Senate Chamber — where great issues in American history once were thrashed out — lawmakers on Friday formally ratified the rules on a vote of 100-0. Chief Justice William Rehnquist presided over the brief, solemn session.

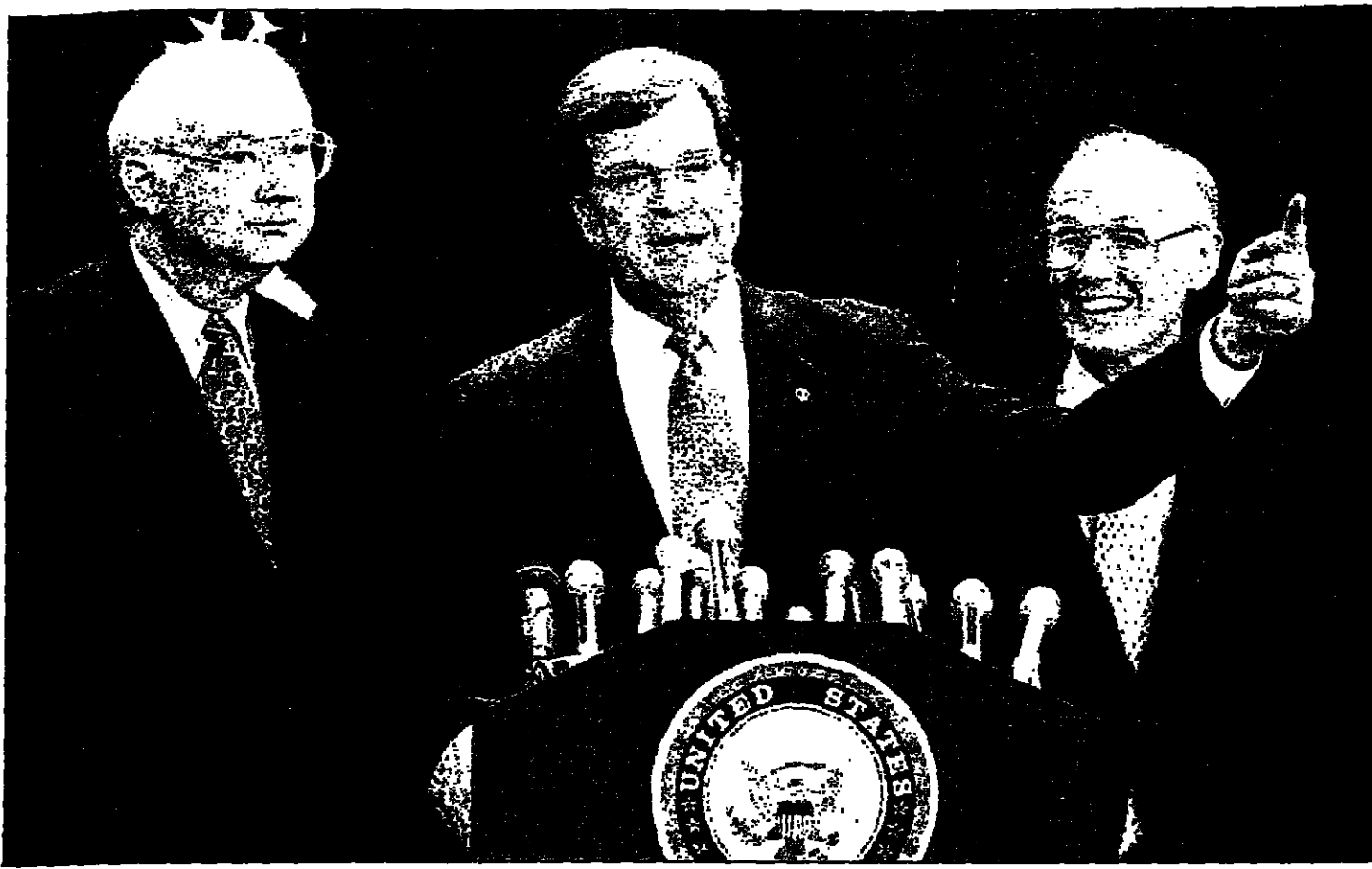
A formal summons was dispatched to the White House moments later, commanding Clinton to "abide by, obey, and perform such orders, directions and judgments" that the Senate dictates in the name of the Constitution. "Hereof you are not to fail," it concludes.

At the White House, spokesman Gregory Craig pledged a "vigorous, successful, and complete defense. ... We are optimistic that senators, once they see and hear this defense ... will conclude the articles do not justify or warrant conviction or removal from office."

The lead prosecutor, Republican House Judiciary Committee chairman Henry Hyde, said he is ready to present a "compelling case" and added he hopes the Senate would agree to his request for witnesses.

After the agreement was struck for ground rules, Sen. Joseph Biden said, "The idea that the Senate would degenerate into a pit bull ring ... was something we thought would reflect incredibly badly on this institution." Biden and other senators in both parties stressed a determination to shatter the precedent set in the House during last year's pitched impeachment battles.

Said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, "I think today we have



Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (Missouri) makes a point before Friday's vote, flanked by fellow Republicans Sen. Phil Gramm (left) of Texas and Sen. Slade Gorton of Washington.

acted in the very best tradition of the Senate, and it is an appropriate approach for this historic, very solemn event."

Clinton stands accused of two articles of impeachment, perjury and obstruction of justice, in connection with his effort to conceal a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. He is only the second president in history to be subjected to a trial, after Andrew Johnson in 1868.

For the second straight day,

Clinton maintained a business-as-usual demeanor, traveling to Detroit for an auto show and touting the current economic expansion, at 93 months the longest in peacetime in the nation's history.

"America is working again. It's working — not just the economy. The crime rate's the lowest in 25 years. A lot of our social problems are receding. It's working again," Clinton said.

The Senate was working, too,

but on a subject Clinton would just as soon have disappear. Under the timetable approved, it will likely be the last week in January before presentations are concluded and the Senate takes its first substantive votes on Clinton's fate — deciding whether to adjourn the trial or proceed further with witnesses.

It takes a two-thirds vote to convict a president and remove him from office, but a simple majority is

sufficient to adjourn the trial without a vote, or to call witnesses.

Lawmakers began their day in an extraordinary bipartisan caucus, a closed-door session of the Senate in everything but name. There, they thrashed out their differences, capping several days of behind-the-scenes struggle in which Republicans had sought room for witnesses in the schedule and Democrats objected.

The compromise left it up to the

Senate to decide after hearing opening arguments and the presentation of evidence over the next few weeks. Either the House or the White House may then seek to have witnesses called, and the full Senate will make the decision on a case-by-case basis. Before that, though, the president's allies will have a chance to gain a vote to adjourn the trial.

In the end, according to lawmakers in both parties, senators peered into the abyss of ceaseless partisan struggle and opted for dignity instead. One lawmaker, Democrat Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, a 41-year veteran of the Senate and scholar of its history, appealed to his colleagues to think of "higher things."

"The White House has sullied itself," he said in remarks later released by his office. "The House has fallen into the black pit of partisan self-indulgence. The Senate is teetering on the brink of that same black pit." Meanwhile, pre-trial preparations continued.

House Republican officials said consideration was being given to trying to have Kathleen Willey summoned as a witness. She is a former White House volunteer who alleges Clinton made an unwanted sexual pass at her in the White House.

Other potential witnesses include Lewinsky, presidential friend Vernon Jordan, White House secretary Betty Currie, and a clutch of present and former presidential aides and advisers, chief of staff John Podesta among them.

As drafted, the agreement gives the White House until Monday to file an answer to the summons, and the House will have until Wednesday to file required papers and deliver evidence to the Senate, some of it presumably the voluminous material that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr turned over in September.

The trial would resume on Wednesday for the Senate to rule on any motions filed by either side.

Rehnquist makes Letterman

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By JILL KUTLER

WASHINGTON — The impeachment trial had just begun a few hours before, but late-night comedian David Letterman had already latched on to the newest player in the drama: Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

The nine Supreme Court justices are among the least known important people in America. Those who venture to Washington can catch them in action during cases that reach the high court. But they seldom give public speeches and do interviews even more rarely, so their personalities are a mystery to many.

Rehnquist will become better known, perhaps, once the arguments before the Senate commence later this week.

For now, Letterman offered his own view with "Top 10 Pickup Lines of William Rehnquist."

Among the printable offerings: "How 'bout we go back to my place and watch some videos Clarence Thomas lent me?"

"The definition of justice: Me getting to spend the night with you."

"I've just written a brilliantly argued majority opinion and I don't think I should be alone tonight."

"I rule you going home by yourself unconstitutional."

• Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning had just been sworn into office Wednesday morning, after serving six terms in the House of Representatives. The next day he'd begin sitting in judgment of Bill Clinton, and soon thereafter would cast a vote on whether the president should be removed from office.

Bunning is asked about another vote — somewhat less momentous — that was announced the day before, in which the Baseball Writers Association of America elected three players to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

"That's about as tough an audience as there is," Bunning said with a smile, referring to the sportswriters who had elected Nolan Ryan, George Brett and Robin Yount, all in their first year of eligibility.

After a long pitching career, Bunning spent 15 fruitless years on the BBWAA ballot before the Veterans Committee elected him to the Hall in 1996.

But before heading off to a celebratory lunch with his family, Bunning said he would not go so far as to say that the senators standing as jurors in Clinton's trial will be any tougher than the sports writers are on nominees.

• Another congressman-turned-senator is Charles Schumer, the only newly elected Jewish senator. His swearing-in had an Israeli connection.

When Schumer took his oath of office, he used a silver Bible decorated with jade pieces. According to his spokeswoman, Kathy Levine, Schumer was given the Bible as a bar mitzva present in 1963. It was purchased by a family friend on a trip to Israel just before the event.

• One hundred and eighteen journalists have applied to cover President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in the Senate.

The problem: Only 100 seats are available to the press at any time. The solution: The first 84 reporters who applied got a permanently assigned seat. The other 34 must rotate in the 16 remaining seats in one-hour allotments.

Journalists from Canada, Great Britain and Japan are among those attending, said an official of the Senate Press Gallery, which handles the arrangements.

"It's an international draw that's not typical of Senate business unless there's a foreign policy issue," she said. "As far as the news industry goes, this is it."

Astronomers find two new planets outside of our solar system

AUSTIN, Texas (Reuters) — Astronomers said yesterday they have found two new planets orbiting stars outside our solar system, and more so-called extrasolar planets could be discovered within months.

Neither one of the newly discovered planets is a place humans would want to call home: they are big, gassy and much too close to their stars for earthly comfort. But the scientists who found them believe the discovery of an Earth-like planet is possible.

"I think we're smarter than we were about how to find planets," Debra Fischer, the planets' discoverer, told a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Austin. "With a sample of suitable stars and enough telescope time, we expect to find planets around about 2 percent of Sun-like stars within a few months." Astronomers have long presumed the existence of planets in other solar systems, and the first such planets were identified in 1995 by Geoffrey Marcy.

Both Fischer and Marcy are with San Francisco State University.

Since then, planetary discoveries have quickened, and the two newcomers bring the total of known extrasolar planets to 17.

The new planets cannot be seen, but can be inferred by the gravitational pull they exert on the stars they circle. Stars with big planets around them have a distinctive wobble detectable from Earth.

Fischer found the two new planets among a group of 88 Sun-like stars using the 3-meter telescope at Lick Observatory near San Jose, California. These 88 stars were part of a survey of 200 stars that Fischer began last summer.

Both newly identified planets are giants: one is 3.5 times the mass of Jupiter, the largest planet in Earth's solar system, and the other has 1.3 times Jupiter's mass, Fischer and her colleagues announced.

Fischer said she and other planet hunters will continue to look for solar systems that

might contain Earth-like planets.

"We want smaller planets that are further away from their host stars, because we want to probe the habitable zone of stars — the place where life may form," she said in the statement.

The more massive new planet, known to astronomers as HD195019, is located in the constellation Delphinus; the less massive one, HD217107, is in Pisces.

Another group of researchers found that a cluster of stars near our solar system may be good candidates for harboring big gassy planets, because they have high concentrations of heavy elements — those heavier than hydrogen and helium.

An international team of astronomers, including Guillermo Gonzalez of the University of Washington in Seattle, studied a dozen stars orbited by Jupiter-mass planets and found that all 12 had an abundance of heavy elements.

King Hussein and his brother meet in London

AMMAN (AP) — King Hussein and his younger brother, Crown Prince Hassan, had an emotional reunion in London following the king's six months of treatment for cancer in the United States, the crown prince said yesterday.

"King Hussein is in a very good health and expected to return home after Eid al-Fitr holidays," Hassan said, referring to the Muslim feast marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, which should fall on Jan. 17.

"For me, to have this opportunity as a brother to see my brother for the first time in six months was delightful. I think our eyes

came to his eyes recalling the reunion.

The 63-year-old monarch arrived in London from the United States on Wednesday and is expected to continue recuperating in Britain.

Prince Hassan, who has been acting as regent in his brother's absence, told reporters after arriving in Amman from London that he and Hussein spent the day together Friday in the British capital.

"It was a surprise for me, to see my brother King Hussein flying his helicopter from his residence in London to Heathrow airport and back," Hassan said. King Hussein is a pilot who regularly flies his own aircraft.

Britons are shunning marriage, statistician says

LONDON (Reuters) — The majority of British adults will be unmarried within 12 years, according to the government's official statistician quoted by British newspapers yesterday.

Newspapers widely reported a forecast from the Government Actuary, or statistician, that the number of married adults will fall to 48 percent in 2011 and 45 percent in 2021 from 55 percent in 1996.

The forecast came at the end of a week of headlines dominated by the engagement of Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, Prince Edward to his relations executive Sophie Rhys-Jones.

Statistician Chris Shaw said the fall will be largely due to an increasing trend of Britons to live their lives without ever tying the marriage knot. He said that by 2021, the proportion of men who have never married is expected to rise to 41 percent and of women to 33 percent, in each case nine points higher than in 1996.

Over the 25-year period, the number of couples living together outside marriage was also expected almost to double to just under three million.

The Church of England queried the forecasts, saying there was no reason to suppose that current lifestyle trends would continue into the future.

US man gets life for injecting son with AIDS virus

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (Reuters) — A man found guilty of injecting his 11-month-old son with blood tainted with the AIDS virus was sentenced on Friday to life in prison by a judge who said that real justice might only come if the defendant burned in hell.

Brian Stewart, a 32-year-old medical worker, could be eligible for parole after 15 years under Missouri law. Dressed in an orange prison jumpsuit, he stared blankly at the judge and made no comment as the sentence was handed down.

He was convicted last month of assault after prosecutors said he injected his son with the virus to get out of paying child support payments to his ex-girlfriend and their illegitimate son.

In passing sentence, Judge Ellisworth Cundiff of the St. Charles County Circuit Court told Stewart the crime "really puts you in the same class as a war criminal ... You've reached new highs. You're in a class by yourself."

"I think your son is going to go to heaven," he added. "I believe when God finally calls you, you're going to burn in hell from here to eternity. And maybe that's the only justice that will come of this when you're finally gone."

"But in the meantime I have the opportunity to keep you until whenever God's ready to call you, you'll be available. So it is the order, judgment, and sentence of this court that you be confined in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the rest of your natural life," he added.

The sentence — life with the possibility of parole — was what the jury recommended for the first-degree assault conviction and was the maximum the judge could have imposed in the case.

The judge said he had struggled



Judge Cundiff: You're going to burn in hell.

with the decision because there was no sentence he could think of that would truly fit the crime.

The boy, now seven, suffers from AIDS and is being kept alive by potent drugs administered around the clock. He is fed through a stomach tube, has lost most of his hearing and has been near death several times.

His mother, identified only as "Jennifer," tearfully told the court before sentencing: "I'm here today as a mother, a compassionate human, and a prisoner to ask the question, who really has been given a life sentence?"

She said: "There is no escape, no parole, only treacherous and undeserving death, an innocent life destroyed by Brian Stewart's selfishness."

Prosecutors said that Stewart, who worked as a blood-talking technician at several St. Louis-area hospitals, injected tainted blood into his son in a hospital room where the boy was being treated for asthma. The child was diagnosed with AIDS four years later.

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Serbs launch operation to free soldiers

By MELISSA EDDY

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — International mediators negotiated yesterday for the release of Yugoslav soldiers held by Kosovo guerrillas, but reports of fighting indicated they had failed in attempts to prevent a new outbreak of violence.

A Yugoslav army artillery attack was reported by both Serb and ethnic Albanian sources yesterday afternoon, even before the expiration of an army deadline for the release of the eight soldiers.

The attack targeted two villages near Podujevo, a town north of Pristina, the capital, and east of the

site of Friday's abductions of the soldiers. Both the Serb Media Center and the Albanian-operated Kosovo Information Center reported the shelling, but offered no details.

International officials said government forces had also sealed off an area south of Pristina where three Serb policemen were killed Friday, in preparation for a retaliatory offensive.

The ethnic Albanian Kosovo Information Center said international monitors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe had passed on word from the military to Kosovo Albanian intermediaries that the last deadline for the

release was 4 p.m. yesterday. OSCE officials confirmed that report about the same time that the first reports of shelling near Kosovo Mitrovica were issued.

OSCE teams are trying to persuade the rebels to release the soldiers, seized Friday after they lost their way in thick fog.

They fear the escalating violence will destroy the shaky cease-fire reached October 12 to end seven months of fighting in Kosovo, an ethnic Albanian-majority province of Serbia, Yugoslavia's dominant republic.

OSCE officials confirmed that negotiations with the guerrillas con-

tinued into the afternoon. They said one soldier was displayed by the rebels near Kosovska Mitrovica as proof that the hostages were alive and well.

"The captured were handed over to judicial bodies and will be treated according to international conventions of war and prisoners of war," the rebels' regional command for northwestern Kosovo said in a statement distributed to ethnic Albanian media.

The three policemen were killed Friday when KLA rebels fired an anti-aircraft weapon at their armored vehicle near the village of Suva Reka, 50 kilometers south of

Pristina, the Serb Media Center reported.

Four policemen and two civilians were seriously wounded in a fierce gun battle that followed, the Serb center said. Rebels in the area told reporters they attacked the police in retaliation for government shelling of a nearby ethnic Albanian village, and the Kosovo Information Center said two people, including a 6-year-old boy, were killed in that barrage.

It was the first time that guerrillas have been known to destroy an armored vehicle since fighting began in February. The attack confirmed reports that rebels have obtained better weapons.

NATO troops kill Serb war-crimes suspect

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect accused of raping and torturing Muslim women was shot to death yesterday by NATO troops near the town of Foca.

NATO officials identified the suspect as Dragan Gavovic, police chief in Foca during the Bosnian war. The UN war crimes tribunal had indicted him on charges of crimes against humanity.

The officials said French soldiers within the NATO-led Bosnian peace force shot Gavovic after he tried to resist arrest.

"Gavovic drove his car directly at SFOR soldiers, threatening their lives," said a NATO spokeswoman, Maj. Sheena Thompson, using the acronym for the NATO-led Stabilization Force in Bosnia. "SFOR troops defended themselves by opening fire." She said that Gavovic was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital.

Gavovic, 39, was sought by the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, on suspicion of torturing and raping at least five Muslim women in 1992 at a sports hall turned into a prison center. His indictment says he was aware of sexual assaults on other women and knew about the brutal living conditions in the camp.

Foca is believed to harbor at least eight war crimes suspects. Human Rights Watch, a private rights-monitoring organization, refers to the town as a "closed, dark place," where some of the worst atrocities of the Bosnian war were committed.

Last year, Milorad Krijovic, another war crimes suspect who lived in Foca, surrendered to NATO troops and is in custody in The Hague. He was indicted for rape.

The US-led NATO force in Bosnia says it will arrest any war crimes suspect that it happens upon as part of its regular peace-keeping duties. More than two dozen suspects have given themselves up or been apprehended by NATO troops. One, a Serb, was killed while resisting arrest.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair sits in the cockpit of a Tornado bomber jet, accompanied by RAF Wing Commander Steve Hillier, during a visit to the Ali al-Salem Air base in Kuwait yesterday.

Blair sends warning to Saddam

By ASHRAF FOUAD

ALI AL-SALEM AIRBASE, Kuwait (Reuters) — British Prime Minister Tony Blair told Iraq yesterday it would face further military strikes if it threatened neighbors who helped Western forces in December's military campaign.

Blair, standing in front of one of 12 British Tornado bombers which hit Iraq last month, told Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to expect a "very firm response from the allied forces" if he attempted any military actions.

"The only way to deal with Saddam is to make it clear that if he attempts to threaten anybody in this neighborhood, he will be beaten back by force and we will do this again if necessary," Blair said during a visit to this Kuwaiti airbase some 55 kilometers south of the Iraqi border.

He said London and Washington were always in favor of a diplomatic solution to recurring military standoffs with Saddam, but "he only understands the language of diplomacy when it is backed up by the threat of force."

Blair arrived in Kuwait yesterday for a one-day visit and met the emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Blair and his wife Cherie spent more than two

hours at the airbase to visit Royal Air Force ground staff who assisted in December's four-day US-led military campaign against Iraq.

The British warplanes were first sent to Kuwait in February in a previous standoff with Iraq, which was resolved in the last minute by UN chief Kofi Annan. They currently take part in patrolling a no-fly zone over southern Iraq along with US aircraft deployed in the region.

The Tornados dropped more than 50,900 kilograms of laser-guided bombs on Iraqi targets during the December campaign.

The pilots who participated in the attacks returned home earlier this week and have been replaced by other pilots.

In Baghdad, members of the Iraqi parliament said at an extraordinary session that states which allowed US and British planes to launch air strikes from their territory against Iraq in a dispute over UN arms inspections should be branded hostile and be punished.

They also urged the rejection of all UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq and of Western-imposed no-fly zones in the north and south of the country.

British diplomats told reporters that despite regional sensitivities Kuwait was happy to host

the British planes.

"They want us to be here... and it is clear from the start why we are here," British Ambassador Graham Boyce told reporters — although Kuwait would prefer less media attention to its role in Western strikes against former occupier Iraq.

Gulf Arab countries provided the US and Britain with a wide range of military facilities in the December attacks, which were rejected by other Arab states and triggered anti-Western demonstrations elsewhere in the Arab world.

Blair said Britain was "very pleased by the warmth and welcome the British forces were receiving in Kuwait."

"We have to remember that Saddam's threat is primarily to those people in this neighborhood here," Blair said. "Saddam has to realize we will not allow him to threaten his neighbors... if there is [Iraqi] reprisal or any action against any of our people then the response will be swift and immediate."

Before leaving for Britain, Blair met Kuwaiti businessmen then headed to meet his Kuwaiti counterpart and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah for a Ramadan iftar meal, when Muslims break their daily fast in the evening.

Nigerians vote in key state elections

LAGOS (Reuters) — Nigerians voted yesterday in elections for state governors and assemblies, which marked the latest step in the military's plan to quit after 15 years in power.

Three parties contested the elections, which are a prelude to votes in February for a national assembly and for a president to take over when Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar steps down in May as ruler of Africa's most populous nation.

Before polls closed, reports indi-

cated a high turnout across many parts of the West African country of at least 108 million, with higher numbers of voters in those of the 36 states where the contest was hottest.

Counting started immediately but election officials said poor roads and communications would mean results were not likely to be collated from across states until today at the earliest.

"Results should start trickling in this evening, but we may not have the full details until Monday," said

a senior official of the electoral commission.

Precise turnout figures were not immediately available.

"From the reports we have it has been excellent, very successful," Independent National Electoral Commission Secretary Adama Bawa Mu'azu said from the capital Abuja. "The voter turnout is reasonable and the difficulties experienced in previous elections were eliminated this time."

At least 500,000 officials from the electoral commission and the

three parties were deployed to ensure a fair vote at more than 150,000 polling stations.

The centrist Peoples Democratic Party hopes to consolidate its position after the December vote in which it won control of 60 percent of Nigeria's local councils.

The party was formed by politicians who opposed the late dictator Sani Abacha's bid to remain in power before his death in June made way for Abubakar, a soft-spoken career soldier.

Only two other parties did well enough in December to qualify for state and national elections.

The right-of-center All People's Party, dubbed the "Abacha People's Party" by its detractors because of the presence of former Abacha supporters among its leaders, came a distant second in December.

The left-leaning Alliance for Democracy is expected to sweep the vote in its southwestern ethnic Yoruba heartland but make little impact elsewhere.

WORLD

in brief

Pentagon: Strikes on Iraq effective

The Pentagon doubled its damage estimate from the air strikes on Iraq, saying Friday the attack set back Saddam Hussein's weapons program two years and killed 600 to 2,000 Republican Guard members, including key leaders. "The effectiveness was even greater than we first thought," Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, head of US forces in the Gulf, said at a Pentagon news conference.

Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at a separate forum with defense writers that "several key individuals" from Republican Guard leadership that Saddam relied upon to control the Iraqi military were killed in the December 16-19 attacks. Reuters

Russia to build nuclear reactor in Iran this year

Russian builders will start constructing the first reactor for an Iranian nuclear power plant this year, Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov said yesterday.

Russia signed a \$800 million deal with Iran to help build a 1,000-megawatt light-water reactor in Bushehr in 1995. The US and Israel have strongly criticized the project, saying it might help Iran obtain technology needed to develop nuclear weapons.

Russia insists the Bushehr project is only for generating electricity — not for providing Iran with technology to build weapons of mass destruction. Reuters

US snow closes schools, delays flights

NEW YORK (AP) — Schoolchildren in several US states got an early start on the weekend as snow, sleet, and freezing rain pelted much of the nation's eastern half and slowing travel. Four deaths were blamed on the weather.

As much as 20 centimeters fell in western Maryland on Friday, delaying flights at several airports, including Baltimore-Washington International. About 20 percent of incoming flights were canceled at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, where even Air Force One was delayed. President Bill Clinton, who had toured an auto show, left for Washington about 30 minutes late because of the slush, muck, and snowfall.

Eighteen die in latest Algerian violence

ALGIERS (Reuters) — Muslim rebels have killed seven members of the Algerian security forces and troops shot dead nine rebels in the latest reported violence, local dailies said yesterday. In another incident, rebels cut the throats of two women in an attack on a village.

About 20 Muslim rebels, disguised as government soldiers, stormed the hamlet of La Carriere, 60 km west of Algiers, early Thursday morning. The daily *Liberte* said they shot dead five government militiamen and wounded three others. *Demail* / *l'Algerie* said rebels killed two soldiers in an ambush Thursday 200 km east of Algiers. Rebels slashed the throats of two women on Thursday in the hamlet of Houita, said *Al Khabar* newspaper.

UK trade secretary says fathered child at 17

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's newly appointed Trade Secretary Stephen Byers acknowledged on Friday he had fathered a son when he was just 17 years old. Byers, 45, issued a statement saying he had never made a secret of the relationship and kept in touch with his 28-year-old son.

He also made a plea to the media to leave his son and his son's mother alone. "We are talking about events which took place 28 years ago, when both my son's mother and myself were 17 years old," he said.

Byers is not married, but lives with a long-term partner and has no other children.

Artillery fire pounds Sierra Leone's capital

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Artillery fire pounded Sierra Leone's capital Thursday night and heavy fighting was reported yesterday around one of the city's main military bases, while rebels battled government soldiers and their allies for the city.

It was unclear how much of the city the rebel Revolutionary United Front controlled, but residents said a main military base, the Wilberforce Barracks, was under attack yesterday. Those reports could not be independently confirmed.

A top rebel commander rejected a cease-fire, warning that his rebels would intensify their assault if he were not allowed to meet with his imprisoned leader soon.

Death squads kill more than 60 Colombians

BOGOTA (Reuters) — A right-wing death squad gunned down 14 people yesterday in northern Colombia, raising the toll from a three-day killing spree to more than 60, authorities said.

Police and military officials said the latest attack occurred in San Pablo, a town in a rural and deeply impoverished area of Bolivar province. The victims, several of them women, were dragged out of their homes at dawn and shot execution-style in the street, police spokesmen said.

They quoted witnesses as saying the 40 heavily armed gunmen who swept through the town were members of the outlawed United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), a loosely-woven alliance of paramilitary gangs with an estimated 5,000 fighters nationwide.

Police said most of the victims were suspected rebel sympathizers.

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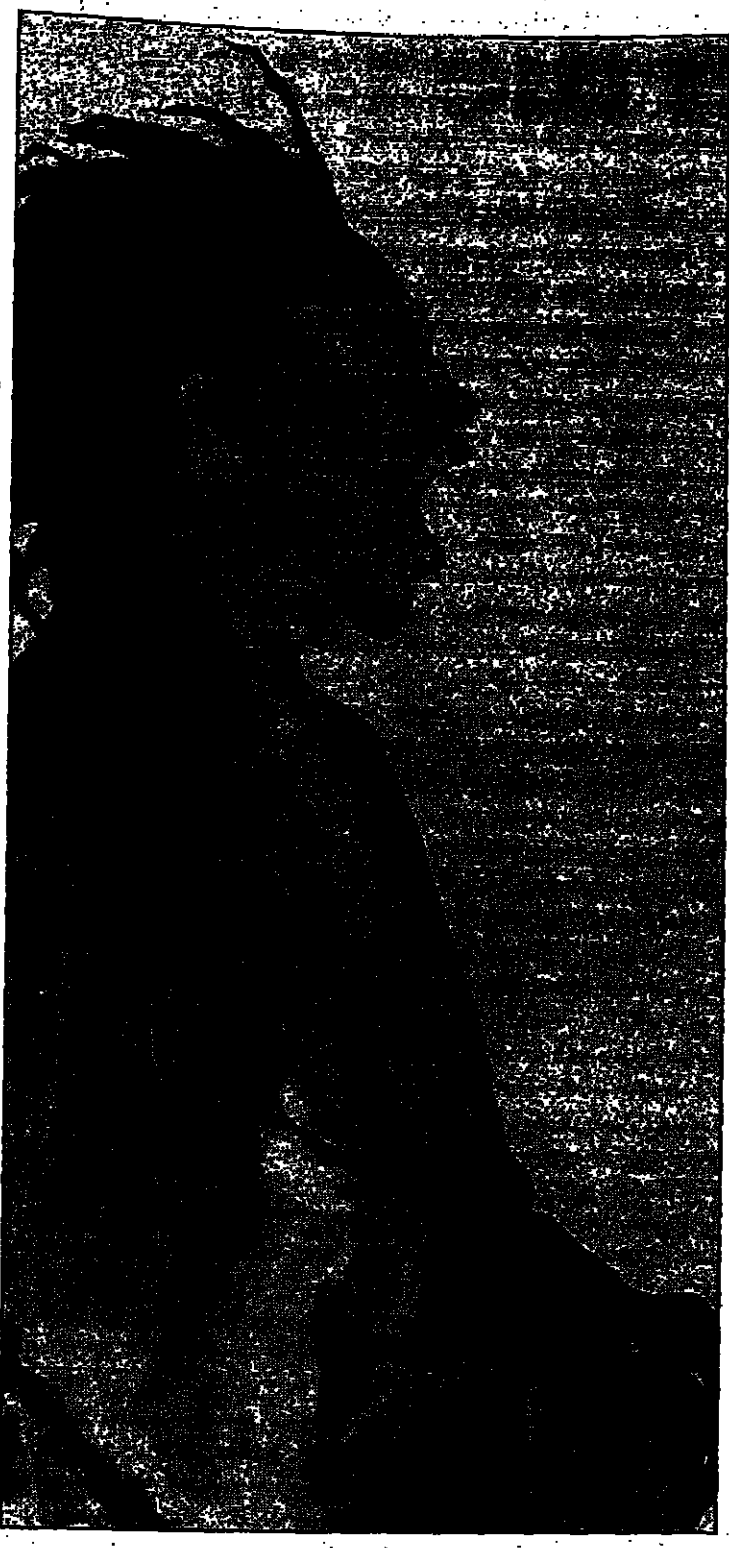
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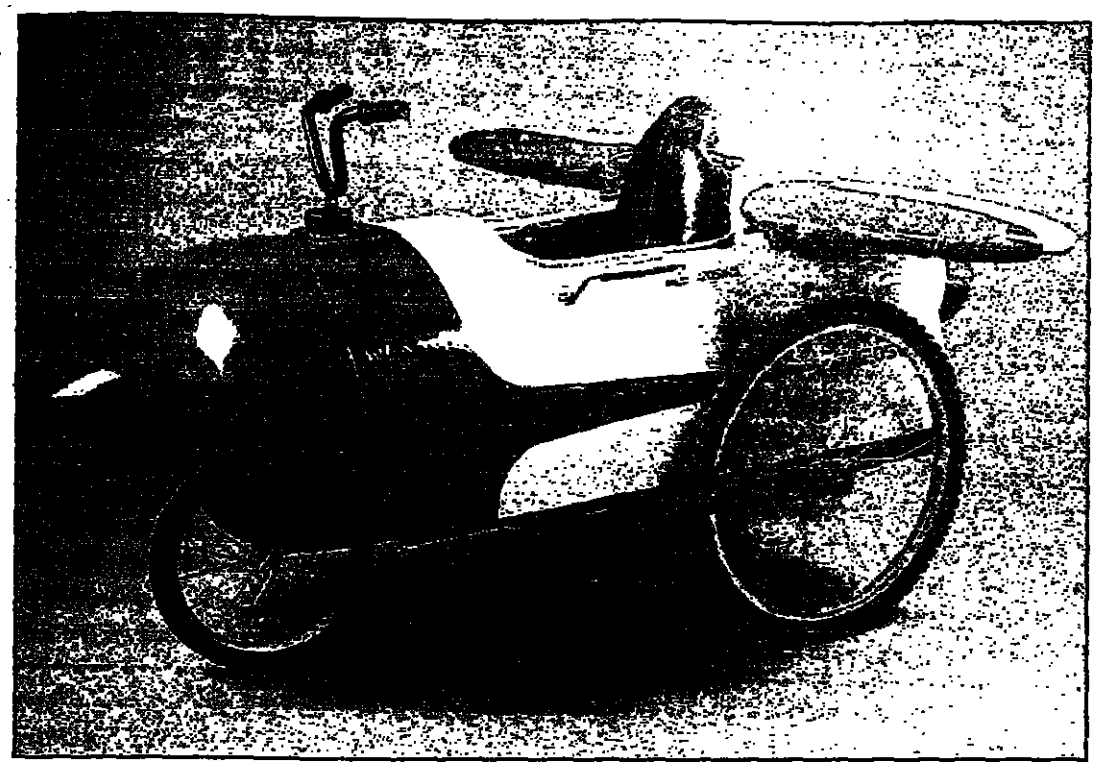
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Forqueman meets McCarthy
DANIEL BLOCH



Loretta Bourque (United States): 'Scream,' oil on canvas (\$700-800 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)



Joyce Hsu (China): 'The Flying Machine' (\$2,500-3,500 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)



Genevieve Paterson (Scotland): 'Claire and Blair,' fired clay and human hair (\$2,000-3,000 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)

Worldwide 'Young Art'

AT THE AUCTIONS

There'll be standing room only at the second Artlink sale of International Young Art at Sotheby's Tel Aviv on January 21, when 123 lots by 66 artists from 16 countries will go on offer. Another 122 lots by the same artists will be offered a week later at Sotheby's recently opened premises in Chicago. All the works, with estimates ranging from \$300 to \$4,500, are reproduced in a joint spiffy-smart Sotheby's catalog (\$20 or NIS 80). Viewing of the Tel Aviv lots is from January 15 till January 20. For enquiries call (03) 560-1666.

Sotheby's first Artlink sale was a sellout that doubled its pre-sale estimate. This time, an international panel reviewed some 9,000 works submitted by over 700 applicants before selecting the 247 paintings, sculptures, prints and photographs by artists from the US, Canada, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Cuba, Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Armenia, Belarus, Russia, the Czech Republic and Israel.

Better-known contemporary artists sometimes watch their works change hands for millions at auctions without getting anything more than a not inconsiderable boost of reputation. In the admittedly financially modest Artlink sales, the artists get 50% of the proceeds.

Tal Dana, the founder and man-

aging director of Artlink, says that the auction is also meant to create a unique environment in which the artist themselves experience an exchange of ideas with peers from around the globe, while getting exposure on the international market. He says that the first auction led to further sales by some of the artists and invitations to participate in various exhibitions.

One of the top-priced lots in this sale is 'The Flying Machine' by Joyce Hsu (China) a tricycle transformed into a super toy that flaps its wings but which requires imagination to become airborne (\$3,500-4,500). A child's swing is also turned into something else in a Cibachrome print by Ruth Collins (England, £300-500).

One of the more eerie exhibits is 'Cancer' by Victoria Jones (Scotland) made of wax, candlewicks, metal and paint, a tortured torso that is a *memento mori* related to the death of the artist's mother. It should go for more than its top estimate of \$2,000.

Another Scottish participant, Genevieve Paterson, makes groups of identical castings of fired clay or fiberglass (\$1,800-3,000).

Among the more refined drawings are mixed-media oil-wash or nail-polish works by Israel's Udi Sahmanovich (\$400-600, may go for more). Israel's Yehudit Sasportas also has a mixed-media drawing based on a loose grid (\$2,000-2,500). A notable pair of canvases in charcoal and paint are by Sharon Naidas (\$1,500-2,000). Also worth noting are several realist drawings in charcoal on wrinkled silk paper by Yael Goren Strauss (\$400-600).

There are two fun acrylic paintings by the Czech artist Tomas Svoboda in minimalist mode, both excellent compositions. The first is a cipher for an aerial view of cars in a parking lot (\$1,000-1,500), the second of a hotel room (\$700-900). Both should sell well.

Some of the most accomplished realist painting is from the US and Russia. Particularly dramatic is 'Scream' oil on canvas, by Loretta Bourque (US, \$700-900).

There is much talent but no signs of genius among the 66. For the most part, it would be hard to detect their country of origin. One of the few detectables is Armenian Aren Haroutumian. All in all, there are far too many Cibachrome prints. Not surprisingly, digital manipulations are also included.



Sharon Naidas (Israel): 'Bird,' gouache, acrylic and charcoal on canvas (\$1,500-2,000 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)



Victoria Jones (Scotland): 'Cancer,' wax metal and paint (\$2,000 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)

from 1926 (\$18,000-22,000); a Yehzekel Streichman port scene in oils reminiscent of England's Paul Nash (\$32,000-42,000); a lovely Streichman flower piece in watercolor (\$12,000-16,000); an

Lily: Purifying plant

Water lilies in a pond make a lovely scene. But now experiments conducted by Hebrew University scientists have found that nymphaea, as they are called, can also be used to restore the purity of rivers and water sources polluted with poisonous heavy metals. They can also serve as natural mini-waste treatment "plants" for wastewater from household or industrial sources.

NEW WORLDS

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Experiments carried out at HU's Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences in Rehovot have shown that the water lily, generally thought of only as a decorative plant, is capable of absorbing great quantities of heavy, poisonous metals through its leaves and roots. The water lilies, which grow naturally in swampy areas, have in recent years become popular as decorative plants.

The researchers, from the faculty's department of agricultural botany, are headed by Prof. Elisha Tel-Or, doctoral student Noa Lavid and master's degree students Eldad Sokolovsky, Tamar Shor and Zvi Keilen.

Lavid, a member of Kibbutz Hazorea, participated in the establishment of a water-lily farm there, where the plants are grown in fresh water for export. In her doctoral work, she has focused her research on testing the water lily's ability to purify waste and stagnant water of heavy metals.

The team found that the anatomical and physiological characteristics of the water lily made it especially suited for this task, without causing any harm to the plant. Indeed, they found that the plant actually thrives in water containing high concentrations of heavy metals such as cadmium, and is capable of absorbing metals to up to 16% of its dry weight.

Last year, a pilot operation was established at the Haifa municipal wastewater treatment plant to test the purification capabilities of the water lily. Results showed a marked reduction of cadmium in the sludge after "treatment" by water lilies.

Other experiments with industrial sludge also showed promising results in removing heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury, nickel and cobalt. Experimental work is still being carried out by the Hebrew University researchers to improve and optimize the purification techniques.

WEB AGAINST ISOLATION

Residents of Kiryat Shmona will soon get expanded computerization and computer communications, and more residents will be taught how to use the Internet, promises Science Minister Silvan Shalom. The ministry has approved the second phase of the computer-literacy program for Kiryat Shmona, which will allow the expansion of community Internet centers in the area.

The program will go into operation within two months, giving additional residents Internet access at no cost. This will reduce their feelings of isolation and make information more accessible during Katyusha attacks and during normal times as well.

Shalom said that, so far, there are 11 Internet facilities in the city and a large number of professionals have been trained to man them. The Kiryat Shmona project is part of the Science Ministry's working plan to set up community Internet centers around the country.

KEEPING MAILMEN HONEST

Mail deliverers' work can now

be supervised better, thanks to a new system developed by M.L.L. Control Systems. It can know exactly when the mailman empties public mailboxes. Huanan Raz, the managing director of the company, says that one of the Postal Authority's major problems is making sure that postmen collect mail from the boxes on

schedule. The new M.L.L. technology requires the installation of an identifying disk

in each box to be emptied: postal workers get a personal control tag and computerized device for data gathering. When the box is opened, the data are automatically transferred to the device, which can't be tampered with; information also reaches a centralized Postal Authority office. In addition, the system can inform the authorities of overflowing mailboxes and various technical problems.

STUDYING ASLEEP

Wouldn't it be great to be able to study for exams while sleeping? It seems that young birds called zebra finches are able to do just that, providing strong evidence that sleep can play an important role in learning.

A team of researchers at the University of Chicago has shown that while the birds sleep at night, they may be reviewing the songs they've learned from their parents during the day.

Normally, the brain is desensitized to outside stimuli during sleep, partly because of changing concentrations of a neurotransmitter called norepinephrine. But Daniel Margoliash, associate professor of organismal biology and anatomy, neurobiology and psychology, who headed the team, reporting on their work in the journal *Science*, observed an increase in neurological activity during sleep in a region of the zebra-finch brain called the *robustus archistriatalis* (RA), which is involved in singing.

It is generally believed that the activity of the sleeping brain helps to consolidate what was learned during the day, but how this occurs has never been directly shown. "One would expect this area to be quiescent during sleep," says Margoliash, because the birds don't sing in their sleep.

But even when the birds were asleep, Margoliash and his students recorded strong, erratic activity of RA neurons, which in wakeful birds exhibit rapid, regularly oscillating patterns. The team recorded electrical impulses from single neurons in the RA of anesthetized, asleep and awake birds as they listened to recordings of their own songs played back on a computer.

Without fail, birds that were asleep or anesthetized exhibited reduced regular oscillations but showed occasional bursts of strong activity in their RA neural impulse patterns. When the birds occasionally woke up during the night, the bursting patterns quickly disappeared and were replaced by the steady oscillating pattern seen during the day.

"This is surprising because the same neurons that show no response during the day have these strong responses to the bird's own song when they are asleep. It's possible that songs learned during the day affect the bursting patterns of the RA at night, serving to solidify the newly learned songs in the bird's mind," suggests Margoliash.

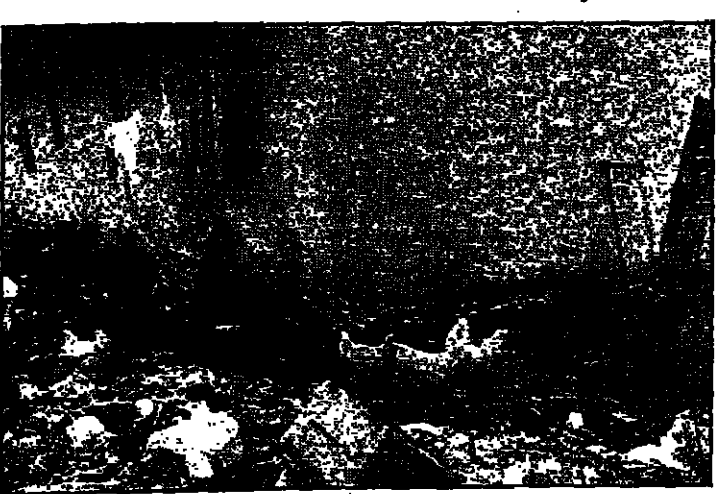
He now wants to compare the RA bursting patterns seen in sleeping birds to patterns generated in regions of the brain when the bird is singing its own song. If the patterns match, it would provide strong evidence that the bird's brain is "replaying" its song subconsciously as it sleeps.

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

It always amazes me. The Israeli housewife is almost obsessed with cleanliness in the home. She scrubs, she polishes, she cleans, she sterilizes - and her Israeli husband expects it. Yet the moment this couple steps out the door, they leave a trail of litter, as if they were scattering coals to someone following behind. If the children eat in the car, they throw their candy wrappers and Bamba bags out the window - for after all, we cannot have a dirty



Eyesores like this one are unfortunately all too common in Israel. (Sarit Uziel)

I sometimes wonder if the ministers of tourism or the environment get as many letters as *The Jerusalem Post* gets from tourists complaining about the omnipresent litter. If they did, surely something would be done about it. Litter is everywhere - on the street, by the roadside, all over the beaches, wherever it can be dropped or tossed from a vehicle. One wonders how a country that

invests so much in tourism infrastructure can so blithely allow the situation to exist unhindered.

Every year we suffer grass and forest fires caused by the sun shining through the magnifying glass-like concave bottom of a glass bottle, particularly wine and spirit bottles.

Far more fires are started this way than by someone throwing away a burning cigarette - although this is the first thing people blame forest fires on.

It shouldn't be too expensive or too difficult to mount a real campaign against littering.

If most of the police force can devote weeks to a program to prevent drunken driving (a problem even they agree is minimal) then a combined effort on the parts of the Environment Ministry, the Tourism Ministry, the police and the courts should certainly be able to impress the seriousness of littering on the public.

It is true that this would take a real effort - and not just an annual

photo opportunity depicting the environment minister picking up litter on a public beach.

The responsible ministries might have to empower an army of volunteers who, after a training course, would police littering and issue summons to violators.

This is not a novel idea. The Department of Antiquities and the Nature Reserves Authority have had such volunteer wardens for years.

Police would have to be instructed to take littering seriously - at least as seriously as jaywalking - and the courts would have to impose real fines on offenders.

And the Education Ministry would have to get behind the issue with real vigor, since children are apparently not being taught not to litter at home. Then perhaps children could actually restrain their parents from this habit.

It's a big job - but it can and should be done. If we don't do it and do it soon, like Job we are simply going to find ourselves sitting on our own dunghill.

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A couple of 'Stepmom's to die for



Susan Sarandon and Julia Roberts are rivals in 'Stepmom.'

By HELEN KAYE

Stepmom stars Susan Sarandon, Julia Roberts and producer Wendy Finerman first got together "the day after Susan had won the Oscar for *Dead Man Walking*," recalls Finerman. They met at New York's smart Four Seasons restaurant, where Finerman offered her film to the two actresses.

Both bit. In fact, both ladies are listed as executive producers, and the result of their collaboration (which has already premiered in the US), opens locally this Thursday.

The story goes to the heart of many modern families: Career woman Isabel (Roberts) becomes the de-facto stepmother of her lover Luke's (Ed Harris) two children, both of whom resent her presence in their lives. It doesn't help that Jackie (Sarandon), the children's natural mother, is one of those supermom types who seem to mother effortlessly.

Naturally, these two tough-minded and vital women loathe one another until circumstances force them together and they unite to preserve the family, and to celebrate their lives.

Both women have said that they identified with their roles. Roberts, who like Isabel is childless (for now at least), says of her character that "she never wanted to be a mom, yet here she is struggling to cope with being an unwanted stepparent because of her relationship with her boyfriend, Luke. Given her age, she's more interested in her career than raising a family, and I can identify with that."

Sarandon, who has three children, has said that her character "in one of her confrontations with Isabel, explains how she feels

about raising children, saying that it involves teaching her kids to do the right thing, to steer their own course, to know who they are... Every parent in the audience will be able to identify with that."

Since both stars live in New York, *Stepmom* was filmed in and around the city with scenes in Central Park, Brouxville and a wonderful old Victorian clapboard house in Nyack which was used as the exterior for Jackie's house.

Stepmom's director was Chris Columbus - his film *Mrs. Doubtfire* made producer Finerman think of him, because it also dealt with divorce and family relationships. But when she first approached him, Columbus turned the script down.

Finerman didn't give up however, and after a fairly intensive rewrite, she sent the script to him again. This time he accepted, not a little because "I was thrilled at the prospect of working with Julia and Susan."

The characters share scenes that are emotionally intense, and Columbus has lavishly praised both actresses, saying that "both had lived with their characters so long, they were in complete command in terms of... the ability to communicate the most subtle, delicate feeling. It was a joy directing them."

Naturally a movie about stepmoms needs kids, and they are played by veteran child actress Jena Malone and by Liam Akin who appeared on Broadway in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

And of course, there are those off-screen stories. Columbus tells how Harris completely rewrote some of his lines for a critical scene while he was at a friend's wedding. That scene, says the director, has become an audience favorite.

Greeks bearing gifts

HUMAN TOUCH
Human Touch (NMC)

while Brad Mehldau, supported by bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy, established himself as the most romantic pianist since Bill Evans.

Veteran bassist Ray Brown made a comeback with *Live at Scullers* (featuring pianist Benny Green and drummer Gregory Hutchinson). Verve rereleased Bill Evans' *Live at Montreux* as well as a number of superb offerings by Oscar Peterson's classic trio, and Niacin's *High Bias* gave fusion a face-lift.

The new year brings in Human Touch's eponymous debut. Stavros Lantzas (keyboards), David Lynch (sax, flute, percus-

sion) and bassist Yiotis Kiourtsoglou play so many instruments, and make such good use of the studio, they barely qualify as a trio. And don't be fooled by their Greek provenance - there's not a bouzouki to be heard. Human Touch is at the sophisticated, modern-jazz end of the world music scene, right up there with Night Ark.

Like that wonderful Armenian band, Human Touch doesn't take itself too seriously, and isn't above pop influences. The '70s-style dance rhythm of "Slainte," nods at Stevie Wonder: "Alone," on which Kiourtsoglou strums exciting new life into the fretless bass, bears a passing resemblance to "Sunrise, Sunset" from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

The standout tracks revolve round Lynch's awesome reed-

playing. Whether showing how far the jazz flute has come since Eric Dolphy and Yusef Lateef, drawing clean, pure lines on the soprano sax or creating gorgeous melodies on the tenor, Lynch exudes class.

His "Fixing the Roof" is somewhat abrasive, and I have no idea whether the slightly funky "West Bank" is about "our" West Bank, but his "Song for a Love Lost" is beautiful, melancholic and accessible, as is an achingly poetic and haunting 10-minute song whose title is listed in Greek only.

In a country which adores Yehuda Poliker and Glykeria alike, and at a label (NMC) which promotes a plethora of Greek music, Human Touch might just get the recognition it deserves.



Barry Sakharof might just be 'the best looking man in Israeli rock.'

Barry Sakharof looms high

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

Barry Sakharof looms high above the Israeli music scene like Godzilla looking down on the streets of Tokyo. He

NEGIOTI
Barry Sakharof
NMC

is one of the country's best guitarists, boasting a fluid, aggressive playing style reminiscent of Jimi Hendrix.

His artistic credibility comes from years of collaboration with Rami Fortis, the godfather of Israeli alternative music. But at the same time, Sakharof is capable of coming up with accessible tunes which become big chart hits. And to top it all off, his movie star visage could easily win him the category of "best-looking man in Israeli rock."

Sakharof has spent the last decade or so developing a unique sound from a collision of different elements. His basic musical instincts clearly come from the world of rock 'n' roll. However, he has always shown an interest in

electronic music. As a result, he produces edgy rock with clear features of dance music.

Negioti ("Touches"), Sakharof's latest effort, continues this experimentation while throwing in some new and unexpected sounds. The result is a fascinating postmodern musical tapestry, the perfect background record for a premillennial cocktail party.

Touches retains the classic hallmarks of Sakharof's first three solo albums. Along with the distinctive guitar work, the songs feature breakbeats, murky sampled sounds, and trip hop-inspired rhythms. Like his other albums, it features a handful of radio-friendly singles, including his rendition of "The Song Still Returns," an old Israeli song based on a poem by Natan Alterman which was originally featured on the *Avoda Ivrit* covers collection.

At the same time, Sakharof trots out several tracks designed to challenge the cars. "Foreign Land" and "Time Tunnel" provide a musical assault of dissonance and white noise using electronic instruments.

Sakharof's greatest talent may be his ability to find a balance between the harsh and the sweet, mixing pleasant melodies in with the white noise. This can best be seen on a track such as "Slaves." The song starts on a mellow Shlomo Artzi-type note, combining acoustic guitar and piano. He then breaks out the fiery guitar licks and the song becomes a driving rock anthem, blending in the quieter elements.

While the overall style of *Touches* resembles Sakharof's

other albums, it also shows a new ethnic dimension. Like many of his musical colleagues this year, Sakharof has discovered Middle Eastern music.

Arab singing and instrumentation form part of the background on a number of the songs.

On "Summer City," he samples the singer Shushan who performs in the traditional Arab *mawalli* style. He overlays this singing with a happy-sounding South American born section and a muted dance beat. The combination is both weird and compelling.

The best use of Middle Eastern motifs can be found on "A Complete Heart," the standout track on the album. Here Sakharof mines his Turkish background and strikes gold. The tough, melodic sound of the song is boosted by a five-person string section. The strings play tonal blue notes in a Middle Eastern style, accompanied by a traditional Turkish baglam. For sheer power and vitality, "A Complete Heart" may very well be the song of the year.

Sakharof engages an interesting group of friends to come up with the unique sound on *Touches*. Yizhar Ashdot is on board to help with the production. The album also features a variety of guest artists such as Monika Sex guitarist Peter Roth, singer/drummer Johnny Shuali, and singer Karina Postel, who contributes her talent as a cellist to the "A Complete Heart" string section.

What Sakharof has planned for the future is anybody's guess. For the meantime, *Touches* is clearly one of the most interesting albums of the year.

Harlap's clarinet concerto premieres in Haifa

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

When Aharon Harlap's Clarinet Concerto premieres this week in Haifa, this will not be the first time that the Haifa Symphony Orchestra will perform his music.

Under music director Stanley Sperber, the HSO is one of the greatest champions of Israeli music, commissioning several works a season from local composers and performing them usually with expression, commitment and enthusiasm alike, a practice not so common among local orchestras. Harlap is no exception.

Haifa has almost singlehandedly championed Israeli contemporary music. Granted, other orchestras, like the Jerusalem Symphony or the Israel Chamber, for example, have also presented the occasional Israeli premiere, but not one orchestra here has actually put Israeli music on its banner as has the HSO.

The HSO should be commended for its efforts and indeed it has received various prizes for this musical policy.

The battle for the existence and survival of contemporary Israeli symphonic music is not an easy one. Audiences do not usually appreciate this effort. They prefer Mozart and Beethoven to Zehavi and Permont. They would rather hear Johann Strauss than Gil Shohat.

The quality of the Israeli music presented is not at stake, as far as the audiences are concerned - it is the principle which is. They sim-

ply avoid it like the plague.

But Sperber does not let them get away with it. For years now his HSO has been, and still is, commissioning new Israeli music and performing it in a most exciting way, on a regular basis, in its subscription concerts.

Obviously not every new work has turned out to be a masterpiece. But the only way to succeed in anything is to keep trying. And Sperber and the HSO do just that.

Harlap dedicated the concerto to HSO principal clarinetist Orit Orbach. He says that "the melodic and virtuosic qualities of her playing are to a great extent exploited in this work, from the clarinet's entrance to the triumphant conclusion of the piece."

Naturally she will perform the concerto. One of the most talented Israeli musicians of the younger generation, Orbach is a true performer who has done a lot to showcase both the more and less familiar clarinet repertoire in Haifa.

Every time she plays her instrument, her devotion to the music enchants, as does her immaculate musicianship, her caressing sound and her amazing stage presence. Orbach is a consummate musician and, together with Sperber and the HSO, there is no doubt that she will perform this new opus in a most exhilarating way.

The HSO has performed several of Harlap's works and even recorded his second symphony, *Bird of War*, not long ago. This is a very programmatic work featuring a lot of angst

between more soothing sections.

In this specific opus, Harlap tries to shock the listener and catch him unguarded, as if in the midst of war. He contrasts moods and styles in an abrupt fashion which has an effect but at times is too disturbing.

That said, the symphony as a whole is a solid musical work which is well written.

Harlap, who was born in Canada where he began his musical career as a pianist, is well known as a choral, opera and orchestral conductor as well as a composer. He has conducted all the local orchestras as well as orchestras abroad. His compositions have been performed all over the world and feature works for choirs, chamber ensembles and symphonic orchestra.

In 1979, he was awarded a prize in an international competition on the subject of the Holocaust and Rebirth, for his oratorio, *The Fire and the Mountain*, and in 1982 received the ACUM prize. In 1993, he was awarded the Mark Lavry prize for composition by the Haifa municipality for his choral work, *For from dust you are, and to dust you shall return*. He has just been awarded the 1998 Prime Minister's Prize for composition.

The HSO premieres Aharon Harlap's *Clarinet Concerto* this Saturday at the North Theater in Kiryat Haim and next Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium, all at 8:30 p.m.

Woman caught sleeping in Brad Pitt's house

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - A 19-year-old woman arrested for sleeping in actor Brad Pitt's bedroom and wearing his clothes while the actor was not home was freed from jail without bail on Friday.

Athena Marie Rolando was arrested on Thursday after a caretaker found her asleep in Pitt's home in the Hollywood Hills, dressed in his green sweatshirt, blue sweatpants, blue hat, and tennis shoes.

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ARRIVE SAFELY!

150 من الأصل

Why Israeli dentists are down in the mouth

Dental advertising would pose a serious threat to quality dental care, concerned professionals warn. Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

Dr. Engelbert Caries, a superb, caring and painless dentist patronized by MKs and Channel Two TV stars, offers you a special deal in his elegant Ramat Aviv Gimmel clinic: two fillings for the price of one; a root canal free for every three crowns or bridges. Free framed panoramic X-rays and a color portrait when treatment is done.

Call now before the amalgam and porcelain run out!

Will ads such as this one become the norm in Israel, which has prided itself for decades on the fact that its dentists attract new patients on the basis of reputation and not advertising? Will dentistry go the way of those private clinics that claim in bombastic radio ads to cure impotence and put your hemorrhoids "behind you"?

The Israel Dental Association (IDA), the Hebrew University-Hadassah and Tel Aviv University dental schools and consumer organizations fear that this is just what will happen if dental advertising becomes legal – for the first time, albeit with restrictions – via a government-sponsored bill up before the Knesset.

The bill was initiated not by some MK with vested interests, but by the Justice Ministry itself, with enthusiastic backing from Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

This kind of legislation has long been opposed by the dental health department of the Health Ministry, but it has had the support of a number of ministry directors-general, including the incumbent Prof. Gabi Barbash. Their grounds are that, with the Internet and other uncontrollable mass media, it just isn't possible to stop health care professionals promoting themselves.

BUT issues such as advertising, commercial dental clinics owned by businessmen and keeping dental standards high took a back seat

the recent international scientific conference of the IDA and the Alpha-Omega Dental Fraternity, held recently at the Holiday Inn Crownie Plaza in Jerusalem.

Attended by some 1,200 dentists from around the country, the conference devoted nearly all its sessions to strictly professional matters like dental implants, new materials such as resin ionomer hybrids, cosmetic dentistry and treating halitosis (bad breath).

Major issues that threaten to shake the very foundations of Israeli dentistry were barely mentioned, except at the festive opening. Then, IDA chairman Dr. Yitzhak Chen vehemently denied claims that commercial dental clinics were the future of the profession, and that the independent practitioner was being squeezed out.

The IDA, Chen said, was distributing information material encouraging the public to choose a "dentist for life" – someone who knows the patient well and takes responsibility for his or her care – rather than seeing a series of dentists in commercial clinics mainly out for profit.

"We must work together to return the profession to the dentists," Chen declared, to much applause.

In an interview during the two-day conference, Chen and HU-Hadassah dental school dean Prof. Adam Stabholz offered details on the threats to high-quality dentistry.

The old law barring dentists from advertising prevented those who had media connections from getting undue prominence, they explained.

In the past, health fund-owned dental clinics were not for profit and aimed at providing decent care at a lower price than private dentists; they were not required to charge VAT.

Today, these clinics are commercial chains using the health funds' names, and the aim is to make money. Most of their dentists are either working overtime, beyond their private clinics, or new immi-

grants or others without the reputation or means to open their own private clinics.

Now that the health funds' dental services are corporations, the tax authorities are insisting they charge patients VAT; a court case involving one of the funds – which has refused to add VAT to dental fees – has dragged on for years.

But private dentists, unlike private doctors, must charge VAT. "The income-tax authorities say it's a way of keeping their eye on dentists' earnings," Chen said with disdain.

The Sheerit Law, a private member's bill initiated by Likud MK Meir Sheerit and passed by the Knesset in 1986, was the first step toward the commercialization of dentistry here.

Sheerit, upset that very few dentists and dental specialists were willing to set up private practices in Yavne (where he was then mayor) and other small and outlying towns, gave businessmen a foot in the door, allowing them to set up commercial clinics. Despite complaints to the Health Ministry against some of these clinics, a handful of the chains remain.

"Suddenly, clinics closed because they weren't profitable enough, leaving patients with complaints about treatment and no one to turn to," Chen said.

"We're working in the Knesset for the abolition of the Sheerit Law. Now the ministry itself is on our side."

ANOTHER burning issue is commercial dental insurance. Today 600,000 Israelis have group insurance policies through their place of work or other organization.

"The companies decide what level of health care patients will get," Stabholz said. "The situation is different from the US, in which a company will offer partial dental coverage to staffers, depending on the terms of their individual contract."

A manager may get 70% of dental charges by a dentist he chooses.



The dental association is urging people to choose a 'dentist for life' rather than a series of dentists in commercial clinics. (IDF Spokesman)

paid for by the insurance company, while an employee lower-down gets less. But at least they get to choose the private dentist they wish."

In Israel, however, free choice of one's dentist under such arrangements is rare.

"An insurance company goes to 500 dentists, who often don't have enough work, lists them in a booklet and sends those covered to any of the dentists," said Chen.

"The company then offers a NIS 10 subsidy for the patient's fee as a profit. This has made many dentists slaves to the insurance companies."

When dentists are faced with earning NIS 10 for a filling, they're forced to lower the quality of the dental materials they use, and the patients suffer."

Stabholz noted that in one foreign country, insurance companies offered special bonuses to dentists

who treated a minimum number of patients in a day.

"Soon it became clear that dentists were spending most of their time extracting teeth instead of painstakingly repairing them, so the whole system collapsed."

DENTAL services, which are not included in the "basket" of health services and for which income-tax deductions have not been allowed for over a decade, are very expensive, the dental school dean continued.

"There is the cost of all the equipment – autoclaves and latex gloves – for preventing the spread of viral diseases like AIDS and hepatitis B and C. Then there are the expensive imported materials, new resins and polymers, required for modern care."

"Because of the high cost, most Israelis go to a dentist only when they have an acute problem like a

toothache, instead of seeing him or her regularly for preventive care.

"With fewer potential patients, quite a few dentists are underemployed, and a growing number of newly graduated dentists are women who prefer to work part-time. More than half of our dental school classes are women," Stabholz disclosed.

Ways of encouraging dentists who graduated years ago to update their knowledge and techniques is a major aim of the IDA and the dental schools.

"There's no law requiring a dentist to take a course after graduation," he added. "You can't force a dentist to prove himself all his life through relicensing courses, and the Health Ministry doesn't have the ability or the funds to supervise mandatory examinations."

An alternative, favored by the IDA and the dental schools, is to

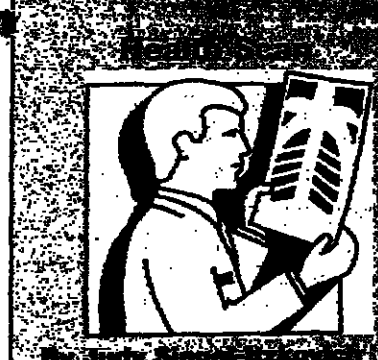
institute courses bearing bonus points.

"Dentists should be offered courses at the dental schools – absolutely not by commercial companies selling new dental materials – and when they earn a certain number of points they would be given a certificate to hang on their wall so patients would know they were continually upgrading their professional expertise," Chen said.

The Jerusalem dental school has launched a program offering 18 dental-care units for continuing education courses.

The IDA also urges that differential payments be set on dentists' insurance policies protecting practitioners against malpractice and negligence suits; and that dentists who have accrued a large number of bonus points after taking courses be charged less, as they are less likely to be sued.

Free opinions for the impecunious



When a child is born with a rare genetic disease, parents often turn to the Internet for information. In the case of a young boy with a rare genetic disease, his parents found a specialist who offered free consultations.

One girl's condition so touched the doctor that he suggested she come to his Massachusetts hospital for a free operation. An ear, nose and throat specialist from Pittsburgh also saw a number of patients for free during a visit to St. Elizabeth's.

Foreign specialists visiting the country have already begun to offer free second opinions free of charge. The world's leading plastic surgeon arrived here from Boston recently and examined 14 patients in need of urgent and complicated surgery.

One girl's condition so touched the doctor that he suggested she come to his Massachusetts hospital for a free operation. An ear, nose and throat specialist from Pittsburgh also saw a number of patients for free during a visit to St. Elizabeth's.

A clinic for babies adopted from faraway places

By SANDRA VAN

When Andrew and Allison Stevens adopted a baby from Vietnam at the end of October, they wanted to be sure he was healthy, and that his vaccinations were current, accurate and complete. The couple, previously from Los Angeles and currently living in Tokyo, took five-month-old Evan to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where the division of pediatric infectious diseases is developing a clinic specializing in internationally adopted babies.

"We had wanted to adopt internationally, and knew that we were getting a child from a Third World country where the medical care was country where the medical care was nearly what it is here," said Allison. "We also knew that whatever medical information we received from the country had to be considered suspect because we've heard that they often use outdated vaccinations or out-and-out lies."

Division director Dr. Moshe Arditi said American families adopt about 10,000 foreign children each year, with approximately 90% of them coming from Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America.

"Infectious disease considerations are very important in these patients because many infections are asymptomatic. Diagnosis can only be made through screenings. Also, a history and physical exam should be performed when the children arrive in the US."

According to Arditi, some studies show that infectious diseases may be found in as many as 60% of adopted children, depending on their country of origin. Because of the prevalence of such infections as tuberculosis, hepatitis B, cytome-

galovirus, syphilis and HIV, particular attention should be paid to those screenings, as well as to tests given to rule out a variety of intestinal parasites.

"Since international adoptees are frequently not immunized – or under-immunized – they should receive necessary vaccinations based on the current recommendations in the US," said Arditi.

EXCEPT for suffering from scabies, ringworm and eczema, little Evan – whose legal name at the present time is Tran Van Loi – was found to be in excellent health. Allison said she and her husband were committed to dealing with any diseases Evan might have, but felt relief when they got the good news. "I trust the results. It's not like the results from a foreign country whose medical care you don't understand," said Allison. "We live in Tokyo and the medical care in Tokyo is just different. Since we don't speak Japanese fluently at all, we wanted to make sure we had Evan checked out by a doctor whose nuances we completely understood."

Because the couple expect to return to Los Angeles in a few years, they wanted to have Evan's exam done there.

Allison said that after trying unsuccessfully to find "somebody who specialized in this kind of stuff," she found out about the pediatric infectious disease specialists at Cedars-Sinai through a friend of a friend.

"When we adopted Evan, there were two other families who were adopting at the same time," Allison said. "They had talked to their local pediatricians and were going home and going to their own doctors."

"That was fine, but it never occurred to me to just go to a pediatrician. I assumed Evan would have something a general pediatrician might not be able to identify. I

didn't want to spend six months trying to figure out what the problem was."

While examination and screening tests for infectious diseases are not necessary immediately after a child's arrival in the US, Arditi recommends they be performed within two weeks to help protect the baby, the family and the local community. (Cedars-Sinai News Service)



The joy of parenthood – without the worry of unknown diseases. (Nisum Shomer)

Does makeup need an expiry date?



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

only for their own financial benefit? A.Y., Ramat Hasharon

Dr. Dov Stempler, a dermatologist at Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin, replies:

Packages of cosmetics don't have to bear an expiry date beyond which they should not be used, because they are manufactured under sterile conditions and don't spoil when hermetically sealed.

Cosmetics generally contain preservatives to prevent microbes taking hold and multiplying once the container is open, so there is no reason to worry about bacteria on your hands or face "infecting" the cosmetics.

In general, cosmetics companies' recommendations of frequent turnover is based on their own financial benefit. I'm not certain whether face powder contains preservatives; but I still doubt there could be a problem.

If there is any reason to be careful about months of using an opened product, it is when using eye cosmetics. If you have had an eye infection, be careful not to apply eyeliner or mascara with an applicator that might have become contaminated.

In any event, it's a good rule not to use cosmetics that have changed color or smell odd. It's also an idea to clean powder puffs and makeup brushes occasionally.

A friend has developed a lipoma on her neck, and it looks very ugly, although I understand it is benign. Her doctor has suggested both a biopsy and a CT scan, but she is afraid that a biopsy, or any other interference with the lipoma, might turn this accumulation of fat into something malignant. She is prepared to live with it rather than take the risk. A holistic doctor gave her a special diet some months ago, but it has not reduced the size of the lipoma at all.

Are her fears unfounded? She is a young woman, and the lipoma is spoiling her looks. Is there anything one can do aside from surgery? D.W., Jerusalem

Dr. Stempler handles this question too:

A lipoma is a mass of solid fat cells. It is soft, unconnected to surrounding tissue and not malignant. Lipomas can easily be removed in minor, no-risk surgery through a small incision in the skin.

Does using mascara, powder, makeup and other cosmetics for months at a time increase the danger of infection? Should one throw these away every few months, as some companies advise – or do they recommend this only for their own financial benefit? A.Y., Ramat Hasharon

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Taking a biopsy or removing the lipoma completely does not change it in any way, nor will it make the lipoma malignant. Since it is on your friend's neck, the doctor probably wanted to see the exact location of the blood vessels in the area.



Care needs to be taken with eye cosmetics – after an eye infection, for example.

melanoma who had the skin tumor removed and later died. This is due to the cancerous cells having previously metastasized into the body, not to the removal of the skin tumor itself.

My husband, in his 50s, recently developed tinnitus (chronic ringing in the ears). My father suffered from this and his doctors advised him to cut down on salt. Is there any proven connection between reducing salt intake and improvement of the condition? H.E., Jerusalem

Dr. Michael Wolf, a senior otolaryngologist at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, comments:

There is no proven connection between dietary changes, including reduced salt intake, and alleviation of tinnitus.

The reason for most cases of tinnitus is unknown, but we think it may be due to damage to the cochlea in the inner ear or to the auditory nerve, an infection, or other causes. We use empirical treatment, and nothing is highly successful.

Your father may have had hypertension or too much liquid in his inner ear and was thus told to reduce salt intake; but there is no proof of any connection between high blood pressure and tinnitus.

Some medications for hypertension can themselves cause ringing in the ears. Every tinnitus patient needs an individualized examination, after which a variety of treatments can be tried, including self-hypnosis and biofeedback.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to (02) 538-9527 or e-mail it to justie@jpost.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Dow keeps rising

Wall Street

The buying party continued on Wall Street on Friday, pushing major indexes to all-time highs for the fifth time in as many trading days.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 105.56 points, or by 1.1 percent, to close at 9,643.32, logging its third record in the first week of the year.

Broad indexes lost a little steam in the afternoon and threatened to close lower, but then rallied to finish at record highs.

Technology stocks continued to lead the market, but shares from other industries performed well, too.

Alcoa led the Dow higher after reporting stronger-than-expected fourth-quarter earnings. Other big Dow gainers included AT&T and General Motors.

Internet-related stocks were still flying high, despite the retreat in the Nasdaq composite.

Amazon.com, Lycos and Yahoo! all rose.

Investors were buying after a new employment report showed that the US economy remains healthy.

The Labor Department said the unemployment rate fell to 4.3% in December and averaged 4.3% for 1998, the lowest since 3.5% in 1969 during the Vietnam War.

Employers added 378,000 jobs to their payrolls - the most in 15 months and nearly double what analysts anticipated.

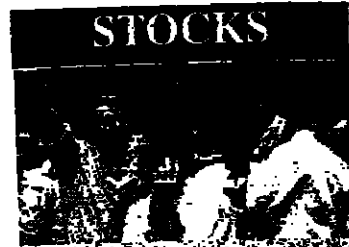
The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 5.27 to 1,275.00, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 18.82 to 2,344.91.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by 1,525 to 1,523 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 536 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 934.01 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 850.84 million in the previous session.

The NYSE composite index rose 1.87 to 611.06, and the American Stock Exchange composite index rose 3.78 to 707.76.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 3.38 to 431.21.



Dow Jones 9643.32 +105.56
FTSE 6110.6 +1.87
Nikkei 3391.81 +10.74

German unemployment, where the Xetra Dax share index shot ahead more than two percent in afternoon trade before retreating to close at 5370.51, up just 0.5%.

French stocks also tracked Wall Street and finished up 0.35%, at 4245.42, after surrendering early gains, though luxury goods flagship LVMH ended 3.4% higher on expectations of a bid for Italy's Gucci.

Asia

Asian stock markets ended the week mixed. Friday, with share prices falling in Tokyo and Jakarta, but rising in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Tokyo's benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average slid 144.75 points, or 1.07%, closing the week at 13,918.1 points.

Shares fell on concern over earnings among Japanese exporters amid continued volatility in global foreign exchange markets.

Investors were worried that the dollar's rapid fall below 110.00 yen on Thursday in overseas market for the first time in 27 months would affect on the outlook for profits of Japanese exporters, traders said.

Indonesian share prices closed sharply lower as investors took profits following Thursday's massive gains.

The Jakarta Stock Exchange's Composite Index fell 18.446 points, or 0.4%, to 4,394.94 points after a 7.2% rise on Thursday.

Dealers said concern over social instability in Indonesia also discouraged investors from investing long-term in the country.

Thousands of rioters rampaged through an Indonesian town Friday, hurling stones at police stations and looting shops.

Share prices in Hong Kong closed higher for the fourth consecutive session, boosted by expectations of a cut in local interest rates.

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange's Hang Seng index, the Hong Kong market's key indicator of blue chips, rose 29.13 points, or 0.2%, closing at 10,722.70.

Shortly after the market closed, the Hong Kong Association of Banks decided to cut deposit rates by a quarter percentage point to 4%. It was the fourth cut in interest rates in less than four months. (AP, Reuters)

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

JOIN US TELEBANK
DIAL 03-512111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Source: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 8-JAN-99)

Symbol	Price	Change
Alcoa	20.2	+0.7
Amgen	10.5	+0.2
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Symbol	Price	Change
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Amgen	10.5	+0.2
Amgen	10.5	+0.2
Amgen	10.5	+0.2
Amgen	10.5	+0.2

Symbol	Price	Change
Alcoa	20.2	+0.7
Amgen	10.5	+0.2
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Georgetown coach resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Thompson, whose tough-love emphasis of academics as well as athletics turned Georgetown into a respected national basketball powerhouse in the past quarter century, resigned Friday as coach.

Craig Esherick, an assistant under Thompson for the last 16 years, was hired as his replacement.

Thompson said he was quitting because his basketball duties were interfering with unspecified "things I need to give attention to in my personal life." "I am not tired of basketball," Thompson said. "I do it because I love it. I am not retiring. I have resigned as head basketball coach at Georgetown University." A tearful Esherick said he tried to talk Thompson out of

resigning, but was unsuccessful.

"He was my very first recruit I failed to land as coach, and I'm sorry for that," Esherick said.

This year's team appears headed for Georgetown's first losing campaign since Thompson's first season as coach in 1972-73.

The Hoyas are off to their worst start ever in the Big East (0-4). Georgetown's winning record (7-6) is mainly due to victories over perennial non-conference patsies Thompson schedules every year.

Georgetown was barely a blip on the national basketball radar screen when Thompson arrived 27 years ago. His first team went 12-14, the second was 13-13. Every team since has been invited to postseason tournament play — 20 NCAAAs and four NITs. He won the nation-

al championship with Patrick Ewing in 1984, and his Hoyas were runners-up in 1982 and 1985.

Thompson's record is 596-239, a .713 winning percentage, and he is 10th among active coaches in victories. Thompson's players almost always graduated on time — 97 percent of his players who stayed four years left with a degree.

But the dynasty has faded over the last few years, starting in 1996 when Allen Iverson became Thompson's first player to declare early for the NBA draft. Victor Page, Ed Sheffer and Kenny Brunner also left early, for various reasons, and all four — especially Iverson — have made ugly headlines that clearly embarrassed and hurt their former coach.

India vows fool-proof security for Pakistan cricket tourists

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India promised Pakistani cricketers "fool-proof security" on Friday while a leader of right-wing Hindus praised the bravado of those who tried to disrupt this month's tour by digging up a test match pitch.

Shiv Sena activists damaged the pitch at New Delhi's Ferozeshah Kotla stadium on Wednesday and vowed to prevent the fixture from going ahead.

Shiv Sena is vehemently opposed to cricketing ties between India and Pakistan who are due to play their first Test on Indian soil in almost a decade in New Delhi from January 28.

India's Home Secretary B.P. Singh said the Pakistan squad could rely on complete security cover.

"A security liaison committee is being constituted to ensure what I call fool-proof security for the tour — both on road, on the ground and

wherever they go," said Singh, the most senior bureaucrat in the ministry.

J.Y. Lela, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said the tour would go ahead as planned.

"The tour is very much on. The authorities have assured us that there will be sufficient security and protection," Lela said.

Bal Thackeray, firebrand leader of Shiv Sena, who is fiercely opposed to any cultural or sporting relations between the two neighbors, congratulated his party workers for their "bravado."

"This patriotism and bravery will help the nation in the hour of crisis," Thackeray told reporters.

He warned the central government not to take action against the New Delhi activists of the party. "Don't treat the Sena activists as if they are Pakistani terrorists," Shiv Sena — which has a huge fol-

lowing in Bombay, Maharashtra state's capital — says India and Pakistan, which have a bitter territorial dispute over Kashmir, should not play sport while India's soldiers suffer in border violence.

Pakistan's high commissioner to India, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, told Reuters that Pakistan was concerned about the pitch-digging incident which triggered widespread condemnation from political parties and sportsmen.

"We are very concerned, but at the same time very appreciative of the efforts the Indian government is taking to ensure the safety of our cricketers," Qazi said.

Pakistan tours to India have been called off in the past after threats by Hindu militants. Shiv Sena activists dug up a pitch in Bombay in 1991 to sabotage one.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Senators win 5-1 over Tampa Bay Lightning



KANATA, Ontario (AP) — Shawn McEachern scored two goals, and Alexei Yashin added a goal and two assists as the Ottawa Senators stretched their unbeaten streak to seven games with a 5-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Friday night.

Daniel Alfredsson and Magnus Arvedson each scored once for Ottawa, and goalie Ron Tugnutt made 19 saves for his 100th career NHL win.

Mike Sillinger scored his first goal of the season for the Lightning, who have only one victory in their last 11 games (1-9-1).

Flames 1, Stars 0

In Calgary, Alberta, Fred Brathwaite, making his first NHL start in three years, made 21 saves for his first shutout as the injury-riddled Flames ended the Dallas Stars' 15-game unbeaten streak.

The Stars' streak (12-0-3) was the longest in the league this sea-

son. Jeff Shantz scored the lone goal as the Flames halted an eight-game losing streak and a franchise-record six-game home losing skid.

With Calgary missing four goal-tenders because of injuries, Brathwaite was signed to a contract Thursday from the Canadian national team. He became the eighth goalie to wear a Flames jersey this season and the sixth to get a start, including four in the last 12 days.

Panthers 1, Canucks 1

Mark Messier scored a goal and Corey Hirsch made 26 saves as the host Vancouver Canucks ended a season-high seven-game losing streak by tying the Florida Panthers.

Hirsch made several key stops in the third period, including a great glove save off Viktor Kozlov midway through the period.

Minutes later, Vancouver nearly pulled out a win while pressing on its fourth power play of the night. Messier set up Mattias Ohlund with a beautiful feed from behind the net but the defenseman shot

the puck just wide.

Scott Mellanby scored the lone goal for Florida, which is winless in its last six games. The Panthers also are winless in 11 overtime games this season (0-2-9).

Mighty Ducks 4, Coyotes 1

Paul Kariya scored twice to end a 10-game goal drought and Steve Rucchin got the go-ahead goal in the opening minute of the third period as the Anaheim Mighty Ducks beat the visiting Phoenix Coyotes.

Frederik Olausson scored in the first period against the NHL's top penalty-killing unit and Dominic Roussel made 21 saves in his first home start for Anaheim, which snapped a three-game losing streak. The only shot that got past Roussel was Shane Doan's first goal of the season, on a breakaway late in the first period.

Thursday's games: Boston 2, Toronto 1; Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 1 (Washington 5, N.Y. Islanders 1); Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Islanders 3; Pittsburgh 4, Carolina 2; St. Louis 4, Chicago 2; San Jose 4, Nashville 3; Edmonton 7, Phoenix 1; Los Angeles 4, Buffalo 2.

Friday's games: Ottawa 5, Tampa Bay 1; Calgary 1, Dallas 0; Florida 1, Vancouver 1; Anaheim 4, Phoenix 1.

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
New Jersey	22	10	5	49	112	97			
Philadelphia	19	9	10	48	102	82			
Pittsburgh	18	10	7	43	105	93			
N.Y. Rangers	15	17	7	37	105	109			
N.I. Islanders	13	24	3	29	91	117			
Northeast Division									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
Buffalo	21	18	5	47	107	75			
Toronto	22	15	2	46	123	111			
Ottawa	20	13	5	45	116	88			
Boston	19	13	6	44	101	83			
Montreal	13	19	7	33	89	105			
Southeast Division									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
Carolina	18	15	7	43	106	97			
Florida	17	14	10	38	92	101			
Washington	13	20	3	29	85	92			
Tampa Bay	9	27	3	21	81	137			

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Central Division									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
Detroit	19	17	2	40	116	104			
St. Louis	15	12	9	39	101	91			
Nashville	14	21	3	31	91	118			
Chicago	11	23	5	27	84	126			
Northwest Division									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
Colorado	17	18	4	38	94	101			
Edmonton	16	18	4	36	102	102			
Vancouver	11	22	5	31	104	123			
Calgary	13	24	3	29	101	125			
Pacific Division									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
Dallas	25	6	6	56	113	72			
Phoenix	21	18	5	47	99	76			
Anaheim	15	16	8	38	94	89			
Los Angeles	15	21	3	33	85	102			
San Jose	12	17	9	33	85	93			

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By ELI GRONER

	W	L	Pts
Rapoel Jerusalem	11	1	23
Maccabi Tel Aviv	9	3	21
Rapoel Holon	8	4	20
Gali Elyon	7	5	19
Maccabi B'arama	6	6	18
Bichon Lezion	6	6	18
Maccabi Ramat Gan	5	7	17
Rapoel Eilat	5	7	17
Bnei Herzliya	5	7	17
Maccabi Ra'anana	5	7	17
Givat Shmuel	3	9	15
Rapoel Tel Aviv	2	10	14

Overland	27	16	9	2	57	18	57
Overland	14	6	7	43	26	48	
Overland	27	14	6	7	36	17	48
Overland	27	14	5	7	46	28	47
Overland	27	12	9	7	46	44	36
Overland	27	9	32	4	32	44	32
Overland	27	11	10	4	36	42	43
Overland	27	12	6	9	40	44	42
Overland	27	12	5	18	49	49	41
Overland	26	11	8	7	42	36	41
Overland	27	9	10	9	41	40	40
Overland	27	8	9	41	41	36	41
Overland	27	9	9	9	37	35	36
Overland	27	9	7	9	37	31	34
Overland	27	8	7	12	38	35	39
Overland	27	6	12	9	38	36	38
Overland	27	6	11	10	35	35	29
Overland	27	7	8	12	25	37	29
Overland	27	6	8	13	34	34	28
Overland	27	6	7	14	29	50	25
Overland	27	6	9	13	30	25	25
Overland	27	5	9	13	37	54	24
Overland	27	5	6	16	38	54	21

Sa

NBA owners' union. Much has changed, too. Most of the teams are now owned by different agents - more than 100 agents - are scrambled in a frenzy of warring ahead of the season's start on February 1. That leaves clubs a breathtakingly short time to study the complicated new rules and decisions which will shape their futures - especially since the new rules

That leaves clubs a breathtakingly short period of time to study the complicated new rules and make decisions which will shape their futures for years to come — especially since the new rules tend to rein-



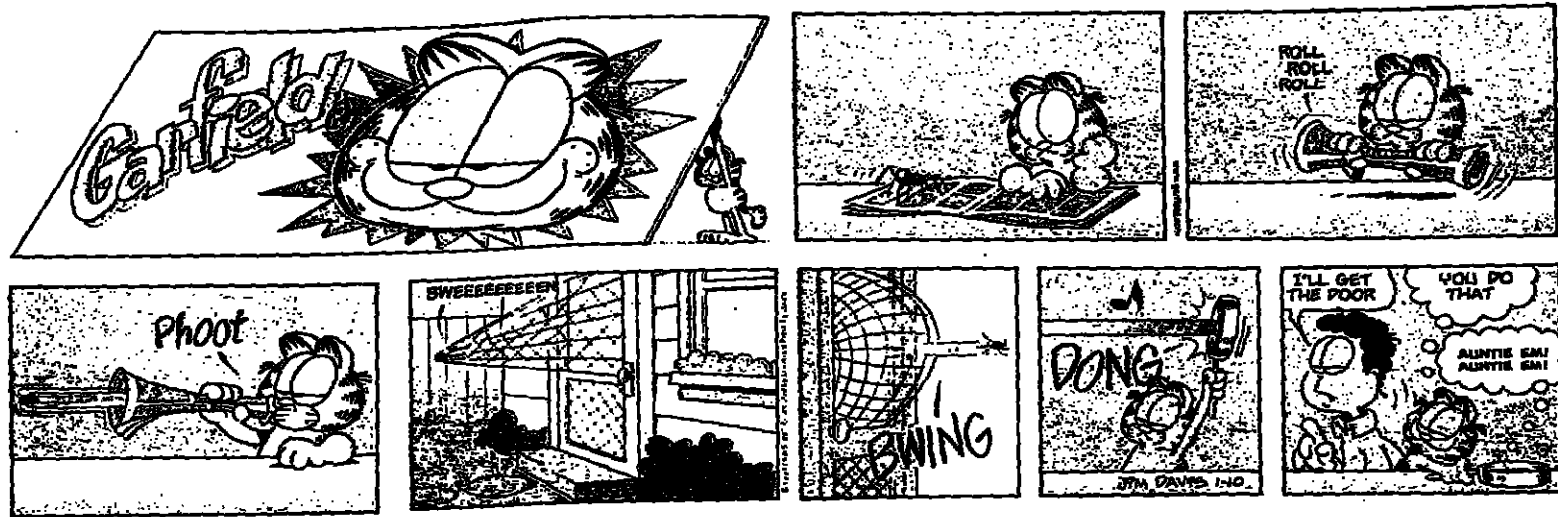
seeded Briton Tim Henman in today's final of the Doha ATP tournament in Qatar. Henman beat Karim Alami of Morocco 6-4, 6-2 in the second semi-final.

"We're concerned at this point for the game of tennis that this has happened but I don't think it can or should have any effect on the Australian Open," Pollard told reporters at the women's hardcourt titles on the Gold Coast.

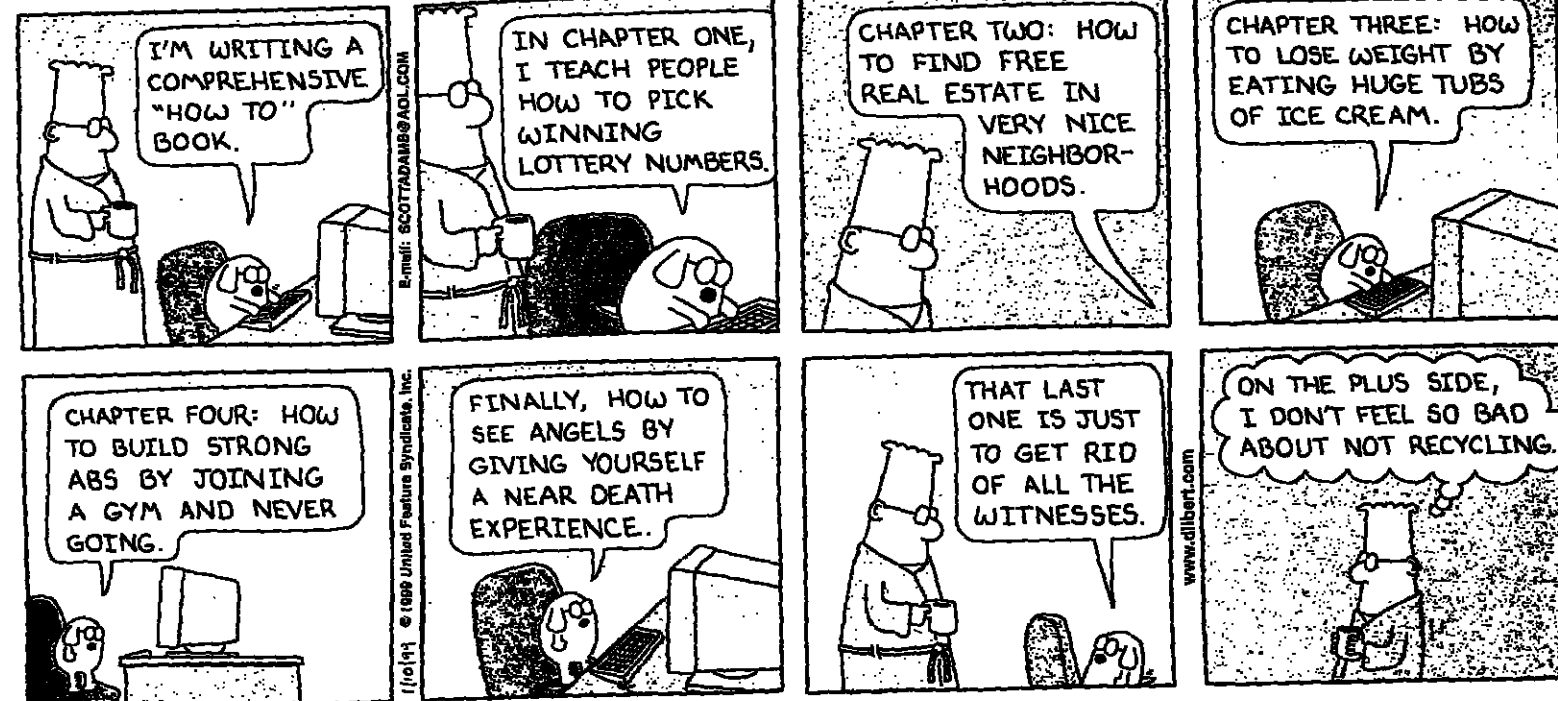
"I don't see any cause, any reason, any logic behind any such action (by the players). I've heard that they would like to have it discussed at a players' meeting," he said.

Salt Lake City could be just the tip of the iceberg after leading IOC chief Marc Hodler claimed last month that agents have been trying to run cash-for-vote deals for a decade.

the NBA, has taught the men's league some lessons. But the NBA's millionaire gladiators and billionaire emperors are not necessarily all about to get in touch with their feminine side.



DILBERT



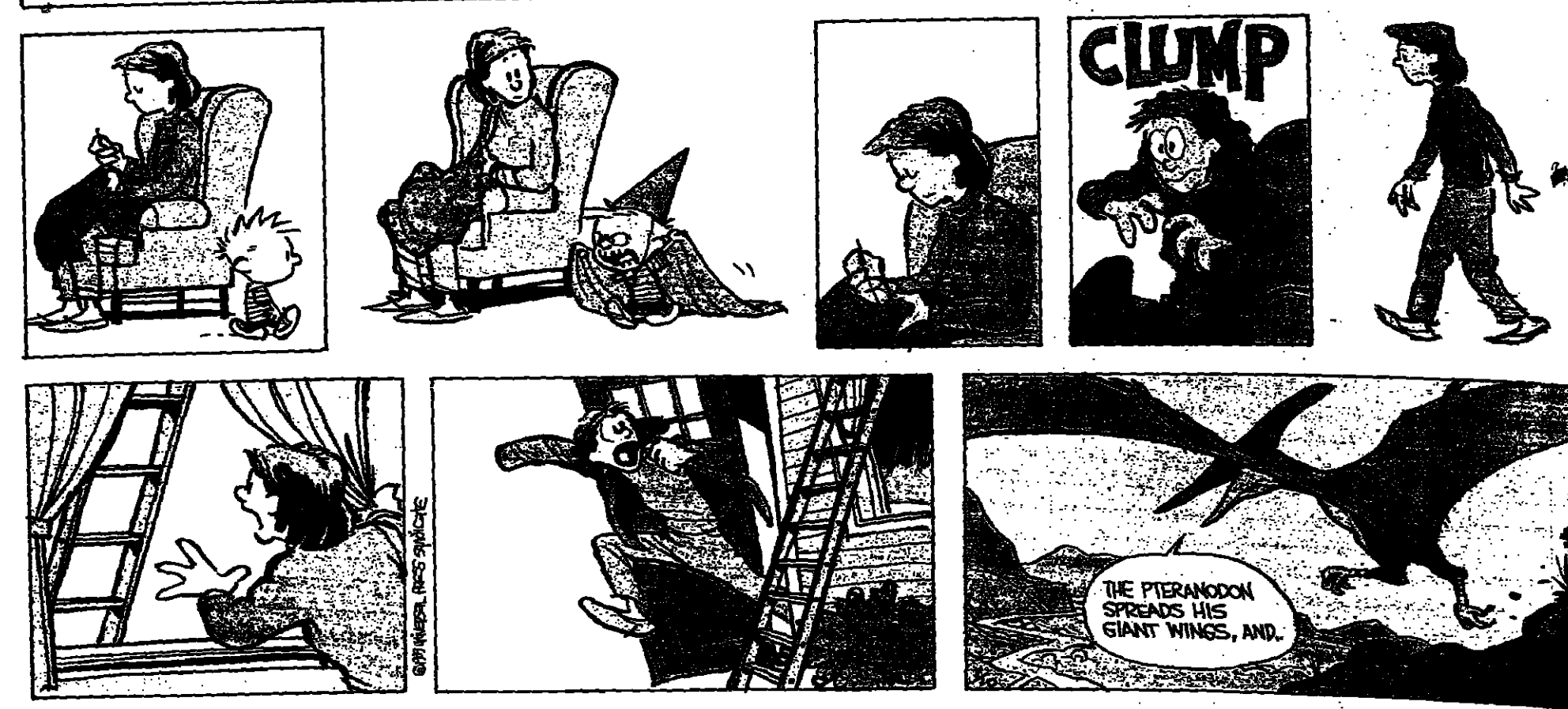
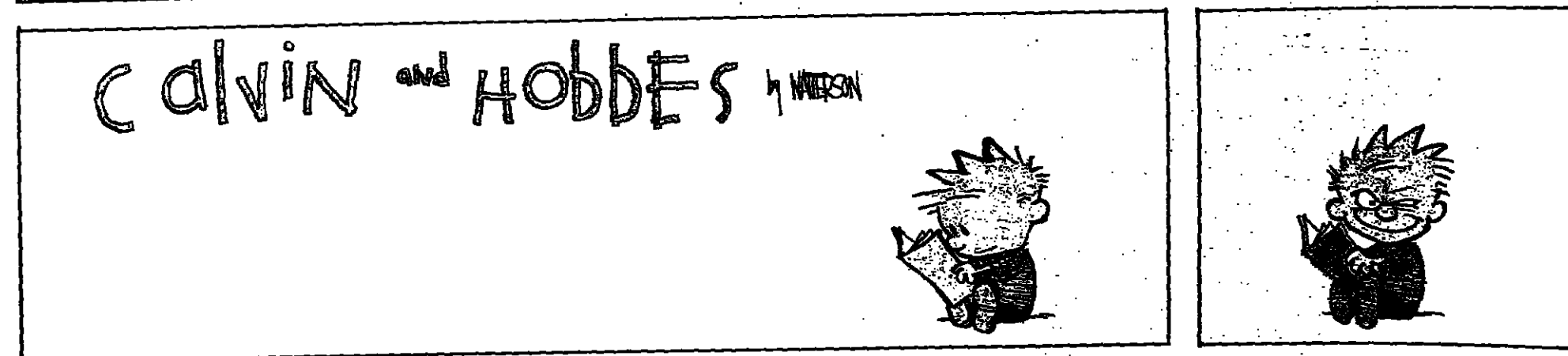
BY SCOTT ADAMS



BY CATHY GUISEWITE



CATHY



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NHL roundup
Page 12Aussies win Hopman Cup
Page 13

Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Levit

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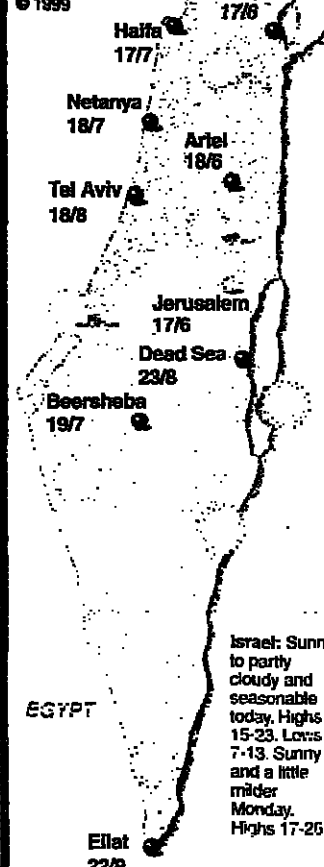
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City	Today	Monday
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Beersheba	19/6	19/6
Dead Sea	23/6	23/6
Eilat	22/6	22/6
Haifa	17/6	17/6
Jerusalem	17/6	17/6
Netanya	18/6	18/6
Tel Aviv	18/6	18/6
Thibet	17/6	17/6

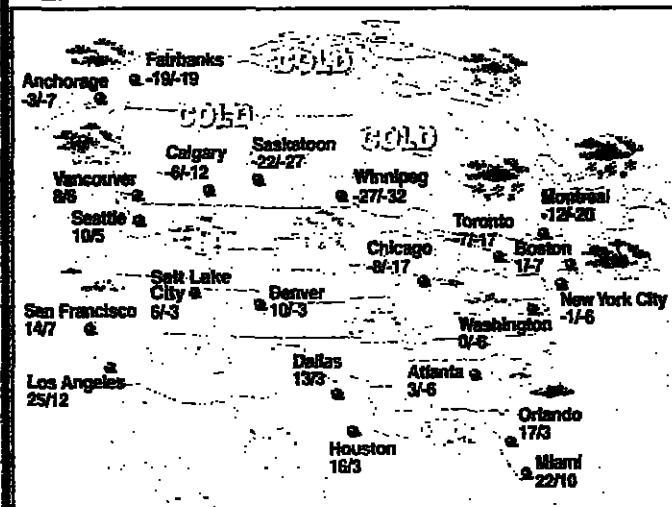
INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Monday
Amsterdam	-1/1	-1/1
Berlin	-1/1	-1/1
Brussels	-1/1	-1/1
Chicago	-1/1	-1/1
Frankfurt	-1/1	-1/1
Hong Kong	-1/1	-1/1
London	-1/1	-1/1
Los Angeles	-1/1	-1/1
Madrid	-1/1	-1/1
Mexico City	-1/1	-1/1
Moscow	-1/1	-1/1
New York	-1/1	-1/1
Paris	-1/1	-1/1
Puerto Rico	-1/1	-1/1
Rome	-1/1	-1/1
Sydney	-1/1	-1/1
Tokyo	-1/1	-1/1
Vienna	-1/1	-1/1
Washington	-1/1	-1/1

MOON PHASES

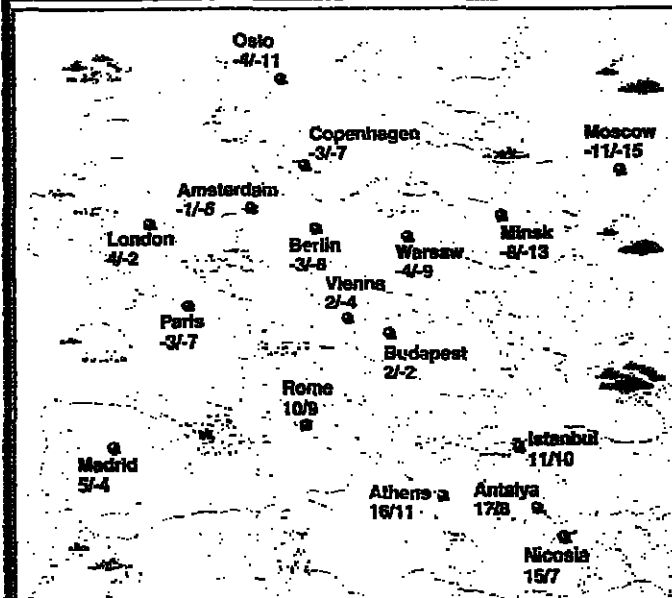
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Full				
Last				

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ZUK Weekend

Chelsea beat Newcastle to go top

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea regained top spot in the English premier league yesterday with a hard-earned 1-0 victory at Newcastle United.

The rest of the day's results also went Chelsea's way as morning leaders Aston Villa struggled to a goalless draw at Middlesbrough, Arsenal were held 0-0 at home by Liverpool and Leeds United lost 1-0 at Blackburn Rovers despite the hosts playing with 10 men for more than an hour.

Chelsea now lead on goal difference from Villa, both on 40 points, four clear of Arsenal and five ahead of Manchester United, who host West Ham United today.

Results & standings, Page 13

Chelsea's game at Newcastle saw Gianluca Vialli come face to face with his mentor, former Chelsea boss Ruud Gullit.

And the Dutchman would have been the happier man early on as his side laid siege to the Chelsea goal.

Newcastle had two efforts cleared off the line and Gary Speed thumped a shot against the bar, only for Chelsea to strike on the break when Dan Petrescu was left unmarked to score from close in in the 39th minute.

Both teams continued to look for goals but Chelsea took the points to complete a club record 20 games without defeat - a run dating back to the second game of the season.

"It's a great feeling to get three points and be top of the table, it was another exciting win," said Vialli.

"We didn't start very well but Ed de Goey produced a couple of great saves but after that we were in control," Vialli played down the comparisons between himself and Gullit, saying too much was said about individuals.

"It wasn't Ruud Gullit v. Vialli but Newcastle v. Chelsea," said the Italian, who took over from the Dutchman at Stamford Bridge last



Chelsea player manager Gianluca Vialli (left) baffles Newcastle's Aaron Hughes with his ball control in yesterday's premiership match at St. James Park.

February.

"The players knew that and approached the game in the right way and I have to say thank you not because we beat our past and Ruud Gullit but because we got three points and are top of league."

Despite the defeat, Gullit said he was pleased with his team's effort. "You have to score but I think our players did very well," he said.

"I know how much quality there is in the Chelsea team and that comes out at difficult moments. They have to go for the title. If they don't win

it, it might be a lost season."

Villa, who were dislodged from the top by Chelsea for two days at Christmas, gave way again after failing to seriously threaten Middlesbrough.

Leeds also lost ground thanks to defeat at resurgent Blackburn.

Keith Gillespie put Blackburn ahead in the 22nd minute but two minutes later had captain Tim Sherwood sent off for the second time this season.

Leeds went on the attack from then on, going close on several

occasions, but Blackburn held out to edge closer to safety.

At the other end of the table things are already looking ominous for pre-season relegation favourites Nottingham Forest and Charlton Athletic, both of whom lost again.

Forest, who sacked manager Dave Bassett in midweek, stretched their unwanted run of league games without a win to 18 games as they were thumped 4-0 by Coventry City, thanks in part to a Darren Huckerby hat-trick.

Charlton lost their ninth successive game as another mistake by troubled goalkeeper Sasa Ilic contributed to a 3-1 defeat at Southampton, who climbed above the Londoners into 18th place in the 20-team league.

In the day's other games, on-song Wimbledon beat Derby County 2-1 to move up to sixth, Everton produced their seventh goalless home draw of the season against Leicester City and Sheffield Wednesday against Tottenham Hotspur also finished goalless.

May tells of twin bribe approaches

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Former Australia player Tim May said at a twinning Pakistani judicial inquiry yesterday that he had twice been offered and rejected large sums of money by then Pakistan captain Salim Malik to throw cricket matches.

Former Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chairman Alan Crompton also denied claims at the inquiry that the ACB had covered up its decision to fine star players Shane Warne and Mark Waugh for accepting money from an Indian bookmaker.

The corruption controversy began when Warne, Waugh and the now-retired May accused Malik in 1995 of offering them bribes to play poorly in Australia's subcontinent tour a year earlier.

Malik has always rejected the bribery allegations. May read to the inquiry a statutory declaration he made in April 1995 about the alleged approaches, both of which he said were relayed to him by Warne.

He said under cross-examination that he was told by Warne that the second offer of \$200,000 was to have been shared by May, Warne, Mark Waugh and his twin brother, Steve.

"Shane Warne informed me that the offer was made to four people," May said in response to questions from Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) counsel Ali Sibaini Fazli.

Crompton later rejected repeated questions from counsel for the PCB and Malik that the ACB had tried to cover up its actions in fining Warne and Mark Waugh.

Mark Waugh and Warne were fined A\$10,000 (\$6,300) and A\$8,000 respectively for giving pitch and weather information to an Indian bookmaker known as John.

Mike Holmgren named coach/GM of Seahawks

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Mike Holmgren on Friday obtained the total control of a football operation he was looking for, as he stepped down as coach of the Green Bay Packers to take over as coach and general manager of the Seattle Seahawks.

Terms were not disclosed, but ESPN reported that Holmgren agreed to an eight-year, \$40 million deal.

"Professionally, I wanted to extend myself, so that was the number one thing," Holmgren said at a news conference. "The second thing was commitment from the organization to give the coach a chance to win, a chance to make it to the Super Bowl."

Green Bay's season ended with a heartbreaking 30-27 loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC wild card round last Sunday as Steve Young's 25-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Owens with three seconds left lifted the 49ers to vic-



Mike Holmgren

(Reuters)

The 50-year-old Holmgren had one year left on his contract with the Packers, but had a window that

allowed him to explore opportunities in a dual role with another NFL team. His job was to end a 10-year postseason drought for the Seahawks - the longest current streak in the NFL.

Holmgren, who steered the Packers to the Super Bowl title two years ago, takes over as Seattle head coach for Dennis Erickson, who compiled a 31-33 record over four seasons and had one year remaining on his contract.

He also supplants Randy Mueller, director of player personnel since June 1995.

Holmgren put his name alongside Green Bay's legendary coach Vince Lombardi when he guided the Packers to their first NFL title in 29 years - a 35-21 victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI in January 1997.

The Packers returned to the Super Bowl last January, but were beaten by the Broncos 31-24.

Johansson: Blatter's World Cup ideas are a nonsense

BONN (Reuters) - UEFA president Lennart Johansson has called Sepp Blatter's plan to stage the World Cup finals every two years "a nonsense."

Speaking in an interview to be published in tomorrow's edition of the news magazine *Der Spiegel*, the Swede again attacked the man who beat him in the race last year for the FIFA presidency.

"That is nonsense," he said of Blatter's proposal. "We shouldn't willingly devalue the biggest sporting event in the world and degrade the World Cup like in ice hockey where they stage it every year and few people watch it. We can't be so greedy." He feared that the standard of teams taking part in the World Cup would change if the tournament was biennial as "you would never know if an 'A' team or a 'B' team is playing."

Johansson added: "It could happen that we have a World Cup where every second tournament is played without European teams."

Think how awful that would be: Europe provided six of the eight quarter-finalists in last year's World Cup and seven in 1994.

"The European football chief said he was not threatening to withdraw UEFA from the international football federation, but he could envisage a scenario developing that he did not want to see. I have to represent those who elected me - the Europeans," he said.

Blatter should not act in a dictatorial manner over the World Cup, Johansson said. "A president has to listen, to follow the opinion of the majority and then show leadership. He cannot be a dictator."

Mac. TA hammer Rishon 8-1 in Toto Cup

By DEREK FATTAL

Maccabi Tel Aviv made sure of their progression into the knock-out stage of the Toto Cup over the weekend by slamming in eight goals away to Ironi Rishon LeZion in the fourth round of group play.

The Tel Avivians were in tigrish form with Ofir Hayim leading the onslaught on Rishon's bewildered defense by snatching a hat trick. Guy Tsarfati put on a fine supporting act, scoring twice as Maccabi ended 8-1 victors in this group B fixture.

In the same group Bnei Yehuda proved too strong for neighbors Hapoel Tel Aviv, getting the better of Eli Cohen's men with a 2-0 win.

The Haikiva Quarter side prevailed despite having to play the match in Ness Ziona following the punishment meted out by the Israel Football Association as a result of the unruly behavior shown by the club's players and officials in their

recent league meeting against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

The shock of the weekend came with Hapoel Beit She'an's 2-1 home victory over Bnei Yehuda. Sergei Culakov opened the scoring for the hosts. A missed penalty by Stefan Salloi ended up costing the Jerusalemites dearly as Eitan Tayeb hit in the winning goal.

After Itzik Kornfein managed to block Tayeb's penalty, Tayeb managed to find the net on the rebound. In the same group Hapoel Petah Tikva triumphed in their derby meeting against Maccabi Petah Tikva thanks to a 65th-minute winner from Walid Badir. Over 4,000 spectators turned up for the game.

There were away wins in both group C fixtures, with Hapoel Haifa edging past Maccabi Jaffa 2-1, while Hapoel Kfar Sava got the better of Hapoel Jerusalem with a 2-0 victory.

In group D, Shlomi Dahan put Zefirim Holon ahead against Maccabi Haifa only to witness

Avishai Janno rescue the Haifaites with an equalizer three minutes from the end.

Maccabi Herzliya came back from behind to beat Ironi Ashdod 3-1 away from home.

The first half of the Second Division campaign came to a close over the weekend. Hapoel Beersheba flourished away at Hapoel Ashkelon, losing 2-0 yesterday, while Maccabi Netanya secured top spot with a 1-0 home victory over Hapoel Lod. Hakoah Ramat Gan hold second place thanks to a 2-0 away win over Ahi Nazareth.

Second Division league play resumes at the end of the month. Toto Cup fourth round: Hapoel Beit She'an 2, Bnei Yehuda 0; Hapoel Petah Tikva 1, Ironi Rishon LeZion 1; Maccabi Tel Aviv 0, Bnei Yehuda 2; Hapoel Tel Aviv 0, Maccabi Jaffa 1; Hapoel Haifa 2, Hapoel Jerusalem 0; Hapoel Kfar Sava 2, Zefirim Holon 1; Maccabi Haifa 1, Ironi Ashdod 1; Maccabi Herzliya 3.

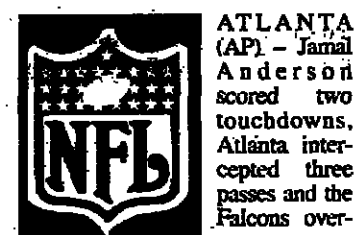
Second Division: Maccabi Kiryat Gat 1, Hapoel Ashdod 1; Hapoel Ashkelon 2, Hapoel Beersheba 0; Ahi Nazareth 0, Hakoah Ramat Gan 2; Hapoel Beit Yarm 0, Bnei Sakhnin 2; Maccabi Acre 2, Hapoel Tiberias 0; Maccabi Kfar Kana 0, Bnei Tel Aviv 1; Maccabi Netanya 1, Hapoel Lod 0; Bnei Bnei Shimon 2, Ness Ziona 0.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maccabi Netanya	15	10	4	1	23	9	34
Bnei Sakhnin	15	9	5	1	34	12	32
Hapoel Beersheba	15	9	4	2	23	5	31
Hapoel Ashkelon	15	9	2	4	32	18	29
Bnei Bnei Shimon	15	9	0	6	23	14	27
Maccabi Acre	15	8	2	5	24	18	26
Maccabi Kiryat Gat	15	7	4	4	19	16	25
Bnei Tel Aviv	15	6	3	6	24	21	21
Hapoel Ashdod	15	4	7	4	14	19	19
Bnei Tel Aviv	15	5	2	8	10	28	17
Ahi Nazareth	15	4	4	7	10	17	16
Hapoel Lod	15	3	5	7	17	25	14
Hapoel Beit Yarm	15	3	4	8	20	30	13
Maccabi Kfar Kana	15	3	3	9	11	22	12
Ness Ziona	15	5	1	9	22	36	10
Hapoel Tiberias	15	1	0	14	10	41	3

* - 6 points deducted for misconduct.

Toto Five: 2,1,2,2,X,2,X,1,2,2,1,X,X,1,X.
Toto Plus: X,1,2,X,X,1,2,1,X,2,1,1,1,1.
Toto Taker: 5, 7, 12, 13, 18, 28, 30.

Falcons overcome 49ers 20-18



ATLANTA (AP) - Jamal Anderson scored two touchdowns, Atlanta intercepted three passes and the Falcons overcame a questionable referee's call to beat the San Francisco 49ers 20-18 in a stirring National Football League divisional playoff yesterday.

Astonishingly, the Falcons - a team that has only eight winning seasons in 33 years of its American pro gridiron existence - are one victory away from their first Super Bowl appearance. They advance to their first NFC championship game next weekend to meet either Minnesota or Arizona, who are set to play today.

With coach Dan Reeves back on the sideline for the first time since heart bypass surgery December 14, the Falcons built a 20-10 lead in the fourth quarter, but allowed San Francisco to score late and then made a mistake to give the 49ers a chance to win.

San Francisco quarterback Steve Young scored on an 8-yard run with 2:57 remaining, and the 49ers converted a two-point conversion after botching the snap on the point after touchdown.

Anderson ran for one first down, but then squandered a chance to nearly run out the clock by inexplicably running out of bounds with 49 seconds left.

San Francisco got the ball back on its own 4 with 33 seconds left and no timeouts. Young threw a 23-yard pass to Chuck Levy, but William White intercepted a pass on the final play of the game to end San Francisco's chances.

"It's unbelievable. The whole year has been incredible," Reeves said. "To get to this point is beyond our wildest dreams."

San Francisco lost running back Garrison Hearst on the first play of the game, breaking a bone when his left leg buckled under him.

Anderson carried 29 times for 113 yards for the Falcons, including touchdown runs of 2 and 34 yards that gave the Falcons a 14-0 lead in the first half.

Still, the 49ers made a game of it, once again benefiting from an official's call just as they did the week before in their last-second, wild-card victory over Green Bay.

Late in the first half, Kirby dropped a lateral pass from Young, and in the scramble on the Georgia Dome turf for the fumble, the ball popped up in the air. Defensive end Chuck Smith grabbed the ball and returned it for an apparent touchdown, which would have given the Falcons a 21-0 lead.

Instead, line judge Ron Baynes ruled that Kirby briefly gained possession of the ball and his knee was down when touched by Atlanta line-backer Henri Crockett.

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